

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010



CALIFORNIA'S TITLE IV-B CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT (APSR)

June 30, 2010

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Children and Families Services Division
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CALIFORNIA'S CHILD WELFARE SERVICES SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

California's Child Welfare Services System (CWS) is the mechanism used to assure the health, safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse and/or neglect. To the extent possible, CWS agencies work to provide services to both children in out-of-home placements and as well as those who are at risk of being removed from their homes in order to safely and permanently remain in the home with family members. Through CWS, which receives a combination of federal, state and county funding, children and families receive a wide range of programs, preventative services and support with the goal of ensuring that every child lives in a safe, stable, permanent home nurtured by healthy families and strong communities.

With nearly 70,000 children in foster care, California's foster care population and the CWS system is the largest in the nation. Significant and ongoing progress has been made towards improving outcomes, including reducing the number of children in care; nonetheless, California's existing and unprecedented budget crisis poses challenges for CWS and the numerous organizations commissioned to provide vital resources needed for our children, youth and families who rely on CWS support.

This 2010 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) is a compilation of the State's progress and actions taken on myriad programs, initiatives and activities underway in California's continuous quest to improve the safety, permanence and well-being of the thousands of children and families it serves. Unique to this year's APSR is the inclusion of data in order to provide a more robust analysis of California's effort toward evidence based practice. The analyses provide a more accurate, data supported depiction of specific CWS program and service outcomes over the past year. This information will assist California's continuous efforts in achieving positive, yet challenging outcomes for the Foster Care and CWS populations over the next five years. In depth details of California's blueprint for CWS is contained in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for 2010-2014, which is the companion piece to the APSR. The CFSP can be accessed online at: http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/TitleIV-B/CFSP_2010-2014.pdf

Each of California's 58 county welfare departments is responsible for administering a vast array of child welfare services to meet the immensely diverse needs of children and families in their local communities. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), under the umbrella of the state Health and Human Services Agency, serves as the state oversight entity whose mission is to ensure that needy and vulnerable children and adults are served, aided and protected in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility and foster independence. To achieve its mission, the CDSS collaborates with the state's 58 county child welfare and juvenile probation departments, the California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA), the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), federal, state and local government, the Legislature, the Judicial Branch, tribal representatives, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders to provide supervision, fiscal and regulatory guidance, training and develop policies, procedures and programs in accordance with prescribed federal and state statutes governing child welfare.

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Five branches and one Ombudsman's office within the CDSS' Children and Family Services Division have responsibility for overseeing components of California's CWS system:

The Child Protection and Family Support Branch (CPFS)

The CPFS branch supervises emergency response, pre-placement and in-home services policy components, including child abuse prevention and the Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration projects, statewide training and staff development activities of public child welfare service workers; community-based services, including child abuse prevention, and intervention and treatment services funded under the CAPTA, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Act.

The Children Services Operations and Evaluation Branch (CSOE)

The CSOE branch implements the CWS system improvements; California's Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR); adoption assistance program policy; coordinates child welfare and probation disaster plans; ensures interstate placements are in compliance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA); reviews of child fatalities/near fatalities which are reported via statements of findings and information submitted by counties; State Adoption District Offices and reviews, maintains, manages and ensures the confidentiality of all California adoption records and provides post-adoption services.

The Child and Youth Permanency Branch (CYP)

The CYP branch supervises delivery of services to children removed from their homes and placed into foster, kinship, adoptive or guardian families or reunified; develops regulations and policy directives related to placement, out-of-home care and permanency for children under court jurisdiction and the subject of domestic and inter-country agency adoptions; the Independent Living Program; Transitional Housing Program; and foster and adoptive parent training and recruitment.

The Child Welfare Services (CWS) Support Branch (CWSS)

The CWSS branch provides ongoing support, maintenance, development, management and oversight of the California's' Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS); Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and its CWS Web replacement system currently under development; facilitates the development of child welfare program changes, improvements to the existing system and other SACWIS maintenance, operational, use and or development issues pursuant to state and federal policy and regulation; interfaces with various federal, state and county entities to ensure the development and ongoing maintenance and operations of an efficient and effective user- friendly system.

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The Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch (FCARB)

FCARB establishes policies for foster care rates, funding and eligibility to ensure that children placed in group homes or by foster family agencies receive the services to which they are entitled; sets group home and foster family agency rates; develops, interprets and implements policies and regulations governing payments systems required to support out-of-home care resources and services; conducts on site group home and non-profit corporation rate audits and reviews Financial Audit Reports.

The Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsman

The Ombudsman's office autonomously provides foster children and youth with a neutral place to express their complaints regarding placement, care and services without fear of retribution; provides foster children and youth with information on their personal rights; responds to complaints from anyone with concerns about the foster care system; makes appropriate referrals; maintains a toll-free number for any individual to voice their concerns or complaints; conducts trainings and presentations to child welfare professionals and community partners and partners with many public and private agencies to increase awareness of foster youth concerns and complaints.

California's protection, support and service delivery for the children and families it serves is guided by the four major components of the CWS system (the data period is Federal Fiscal Year [FFY] 2008/09 due to lag time in which data is available from the University of California (UC) Berkeley Center for Social Services Research). Each of these components is delivered, at the local level, by the CWS agency.

Emergency Response (ER)

ER services are designed to provide in-person 24-hours-a-day response to reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation for the purpose of investigation; and determine the necessity for providing initial intake services and crisis intervention to maintain the child safely in his/her own home or to protect the safety of the child through emergency removal and foster care placement. Upon receipt of a hotline referral, social workers are required to immediately initiate and complete the ER Protocol process when it is necessary to determine whether an in-person investigation is required. Of the hotline calls received from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009, social workers provided ER visits to 93,063 children.

Family Maintenance (FM)

FM services consist of time-limited protective services provided to families in crisis to prevent or remedy abuse or neglect with the intent of preserving families and keeping children safely in their own homes, when possible. Social workers develop a case plan that includes services appropriate to each family's unique needs. FM services were provided to 25,818 children in the same reporting period.

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Family Reunification (FR)

FR services consist of time-limited services to children in out-of-home care to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse or exploitation when the child cannot remain safely at home and needs temporary foster care while services are provided to reunite the family. These services are provided by the county welfare departments. For the reporting period 14,344 children were reunified in less than 12 months. An additional 6,333 children were reunified in 12 months or more. During this time period there were 31,431 new entries into the foster care system.

Permanent Placement (PP)

PP services offer alternative family structures for children who cannot remain safely at home and/or who are unlikely ever to return home. PP includes adoption, legal guardianship and independent living in addition to services for the recruitment of potential adoptive parents; financial assistance to adoptive parents to aid in the support of special needs children; direct relinquishment and independent adoption. For FFY 2008/09 there were 21,499 children permanently placed through reunification, adoption, or guardianship before the age of 18. This is 34 percent of the total children in foster care and represents an 11 percent decrease from the previous year. From April 2009 through September 30, 2009, there were 4,207 foster youth who received Independent Living Program (ILP) services, which are delivered at the county level.

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Collaboration is the invaluable foundation to California's continuous progress to affect positive outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families entrusted to our care. The CDSS' level of commitment to multi-level partnerships distinguishes California's approach to child welfare practice and reform. The CWDA and the counties are the state's primary partners with whom consistent collaboration occurs to discuss ever-changing mandates and processes governing child welfare services throughout the continuum of care.

Significant to the development of policies and programs to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of every child involved in CWS is system-wide collaboration and stakeholder involvement with additional state and local agencies, community-based and philanthropic organizations, the courts, tribal representatives, interagency teams, workgroups, commissions and other advocacy groups. Several of these collaborations are detailed below. Further details regarding California's collaboration with Native American tribes and tribal representatives are discussed, in detail, in the ICWA section beginning on page 70.

The California Child Welfare Council (CWC)

The CWC was established through legislation known as the Child Welfare Leadership and Performance Accountability Act of 2006, which was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Co-chaired by Kim Belshé, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, and Associate Justice Carlos Moreno of the California Supreme Court, the CWC comprises a 53-member advisory body from the legislative, judicial and executive branches as well as stakeholders, youths and nonprofits. In 2009, four committees focused in the areas of Prevention/Early Intervention, Permanency, Child Development and Successful Youth

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Transitions, and Data Linkage and Information Sharing presented recommendations to the full CWC for consideration in improving child and youth outcomes.

The Prevention/Early Intervention Committee is primarily charged to address the structure and resources needed to maintain children safely in their homes, thus preventing the unnecessary removal into foster care. Summer 2009 recommendations made to the CWC expressed how effort is needed to bring Differential Response (DR), a demonstrated child abuse prevention approach, to scale on a statewide basis. In particular, the core elements of DR required to prevent child abuse and neglect will be identified and then applied to a cost/benefit analysis. The focus of the subsequent recommendation is Early Intervention – the priority to create a robust Path 1 DR that could greatly reduce the number of children who might otherwise be removed from their home setting. A draft copy of *The Child Welfare Improvement Activities: Differential Response Guidelines* (DR Guidelines) prepared by the CDSS to assist county child welfare agencies in their efforts to implement DR, were discussed at the March 11, 2010, committee meeting to invite comments and to align and integrate related efforts. The final DR Guidelines were shared with the committee in June 2010, in advance of the formal release via ACIN and posting on the CDSS website.

The Permanency Committee focused on one priority recommendation: a statewide commitment to increase the number of children who have positive permanency outcomes through the implementation of Family Finding and Engagement (FFE) in all 58 California counties. FFE is a demonstrated model for identifying, engaging and sustaining permanent connections for children and youth in care and transitioning those youth to permanency.

Positive permanency outcomes are defined as an increase in the number of children reunified with their parents, if possible. In cases where reunification is not possible, positive permanency outcomes refers to an alternative permanent plan with meaningful, enduring connections with family members and other significant adults who will support them throughout their lives.

The Committee's current work is focused on developing a toolkit to assist county child welfare and probation departments and others in moving forward these efforts.

The Child Development and Successful Youth Transitions Committee continued focus on its initial set of recommendations related to successful youth transitions and equal access to mental health services. Action on the following eight additional recommendations in the critical focus areas – Transition Planning, Services and Supports, K-12 Education, Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development and Employment – are most likely to occur within the next 12-18 months, considering California's challenging economic climate:

- Promote the development of comprehensive, collaborative, youth-driven local support systems to foster connections for success for foster youth, aged 14-24.
- Extend child welfare benefits to foster youth, aged 18-21.
- Make available timely, accurate education data on foster youth to the courts, social workers, probation officers and school personnel.
- Authorize the California Department of Education (CDE) and the State Board of Education to promulgate a uniform partial credit transfer regulation.

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- Enable access by all foster youth to postsecondary education planning information and consider postsecondary education goals in the development of foster youth transition plans by State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010/11.
- Enable access by all foster youth pursuing higher education at a two-year or four-year public college or university to comprehensive campus support programs in SFY 2010/11, or as soon as fiscally feasible.
- Increase access to workforce development and employment opportunities for transitioning foster youth by replicating, statewide, the Santa Clara County Emancipated Foster Youth Program.
- Fund a foster youth specific collaborative workforce development project from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Governor's 15 percent Set Aside Funds and other federal, state, local and private funds under a collaborative funding model.

In addition to addressing successful youth transitions, the Committee recommends improving access to mental health services, especially for foster youth placed out-of-county and that the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) provide annual reports measuring progress toward the goal of equal access for foster youth placed out-of-county.

The Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee recognizes the existence of a fragmented system of information, both manual and electronic. The committee continued its work toward resolving the fragmented landscape at the federal, state and local level and promoting the exchange of information through its previously established 2009 goals to: 1) Clarify state policy on the importance of data integration and information sharing; 2) Conduct an environmental scan across the different entities maintaining data on children and families assisted by the child welfare system and 3) Create an inventory of the data integration and information sharing barriers existing between the different entities maintaining data on children and families assisted by the child welfare system and develop recommendations to overcome the barriers.

Incorporating broader stakeholder involvement, the Committee's work during the year included performing an analysis by the University of California at Davis (UCD), which identified relevant, shareable data across departments and agencies, legal barriers to sharing information, including confidentiality and privacy laws and the proposed solutions for enhancing data sharing.

The following recommendations were accepted by the CWC in 2010:

- Articulate a policy supporting sharing and linking data related to children in child welfare. The Committee plans to disseminate the statement on data sharing to executive branch agencies, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council, local Blue Ribbon Commissions, Statewide Improvement Program teams and other stakeholders. The CDSS will distribute the policy statement to county welfare directors through an All-County Information Notice (ACIN).
- Create and maintain an inventory of national, state and local level practices on data sharing and information exchange to disseminate and promote information sharing statewide. The CDSS plans to create a website to post a Memorandum of Understanding template and other materials for information sharing. Also, the Committee, in conjunction with the

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Judicial Council of the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), plans to conduct a baseline survey of information sharing agreements at the local level, using recently established local Blue Ribbon Commissions as respondents. It is anticipated this survey will be updated on a yearly basis to track the progress of information sharing agreements statewide.

- Prepare a set of policy briefs on the laws relating to information sharing in the following areas: health, mental health, education and substance abuse. The AOC is planning a series of regional focus groups with County Counsels to discuss known and/or perceived data integration and information sharing barriers between different local entities. This effort will assist the Committee with developing recommendations to overcome the barriers existing between the different local level entities maintaining data. The Committee will use the information identified to more fully develop the policy briefs and ultimately to develop additional recommendations to present to the CWC.

California's Collaboration with the Courts

Coordination with the courts is vital to achieving desired outcomes for CWS. The CDSS maintains many collaborative efforts with the AOC, the staff agency of the Judicial Council, which has policy-making authority over the state court system. Those efforts all involve the Center for Families, Children and the Courts, a division of AOC and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council. Here are a few:

The California Blue Ribbon Commission

Established by the Judicial Council as a high level, multidisciplinary body to provide leadership and recommendations on how courts and their partners could improve safety, permanency, well-being and fairness outcomes. The commission seeks to improve court performance and accountability, to improve collaboration between the courts and child welfare agencies and to address the need for adequate and flexible funding. It is chaired by Associate Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno. Commission members include trial, appellate, Supreme Court and tribal judges and justices, as well as John Wagner, Director of the CDSS, and Larry Bolton, Counsel for the California Health and Human Services Agency, in addition to legislators, attorneys, foster youth, community leaders, county social services, education, substance abuse and mental health representatives.

The Commission met quarterly from March 2006 through June 2009, holding meetings, briefings and hearings with foster youth, parents, representatives of the CDSS Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) workgroup, caregivers, social workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), educational representatives and the California Legislature. In August 2008, the Judicial Council unanimously accepted the Commission's recommendations for reforming California's juvenile dependency courts and foster care system. The Commission worked closely with representatives from the CDSS and the UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (CSSR) to draft quantitative performance measures for the juvenile court. In October 2008, the Judicial Council approved a new rule of court, effective January 1, 2009, implementing the court performance measures in conjunction with the development of the California Court Case Management System (CCMS).

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In May 2009, the Commission released its final report and action plan for implementation of its recommendations and in June 2009, the Chief Justice extended the life of the Commission and reappointed most commissioners, modifying the Commission's charge to include implementation activities. One of the Commission's key recommendations, formation of local county-level commissions co-convened by the courts and social services, is well underway with more than 40 active county-level collaborations in operation, implementing recommendations most appropriate for their own counties. The Commission is currently one year into implementation of its recommendations and will be releasing an implementation progress report later this year.

In June 2010, 45 local court-county teams gathered at the Statewide Summit Addressing Critical Issues in the Family and Juvenile Law Courts to continue collaborative discussions surrounding child welfare outcomes data, recommendations from the CWC and objectives of the local System Improvement Plans (SIPs).

The Court Improvement Program (CIP)

In August 2009, the CDSS staff attended the national Court Improvement Program meeting in Maryland to plan California's coordination of efforts.

The CIP continued its interagency agreement with the CDSS to use data resources at the CSSR to provide data on safety and permanency outcomes for children specifically to judicial officers to further their involvement in the state's Outcomes and Accountability project. The reports from this collaboration were released at the June 2010 Statewide Summit on Critical Issues in the Family and Juvenile Courts. The CIP staff also finalized the input of the CDSS and CWS/CMS designers into the upcoming CCMS for the data exchange and data warehouse modules, to align data elements, reduce duplication, enhance information sharing and follow a common schema of performance measurement. Finally, CIP staffed the process that formalized the California courts' adoption of the statewide and federal child welfare performance measures in California Rules of Court, rule 5.505.

The State Interagency Team (SIT)

Chaired by the CDSS, the SIT comprises representatives from various departments within California's Health and Human Services Agency, along with representatives from the, Employment Development Department (EDD), the California First 5 Commission, the California Workforce Investment Board, Department of Justice (DOJ), AOC, and Office of the Chancellor for California Community Colleges (OCCCC).

The SIT priority work plan objectives for 2009/10 include: 1) decrease racial disproportionality and disparities outcomes across systems with a focus on CWS; 2) share data across systems, 3) improve access to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services by families in the child welfare system; and 4) overcome real and perceived legal barriers to sharing "confidential" client information in order to strengthen services.

The SIT Workgroups:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Workgroup

This workgroup was established in April 2009 after recommendations were made to improve screening, identification, and intervention regarding AOD risk in families and children and SIT's particular interest in FASD. FASD is an umbrella term used to describe the range of effects which may occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy.

The FASD workgroup included representatives from both state and private businesses including: The Department of Alcohol and Drug Program (DAPD), Corrections and Rehabilitation, CDE, CDSS, Developmental Services, DMH, AOC, and Public Health, as well as the Arc of California and Children and Family Futures. Under the direction of the SIT, the workgroup was tasked with looking at how each Department could positively affect the issue of FASD prevention without additional resources. They met on a monthly basis for networking and knowledge sharing, and to research the efforts of other states and of California counties on what they are doing to educate the public, including consumers and professionals, about FASD and associated issues.

The FASD workgroup accomplished the following prior to April 2010:

- Developed a combined matrix, inclusive of all workgroup Departments, of current resources for pregnant women and families impacted by FASD and for sexually active women. The matrix captures information intended to improve collaboration at the state level, avoid duplicative efforts, assist the SIT in assessment of gaps in services and identify necessary policy changes that impact FASD.
- Disseminated FASD Fact Sheets created by each individual workgroup department for use on Department websites, at conferences, seminars, webinars and other public awareness opportunities. The Fact Sheets were designed with consistent and overarching statistics and messages, while customizing the information for each specific audience.

The Workgroup to Eliminate Disparities (WGED)

The WGED continues to meet on a monthly basis to develop recommendations to the SIT for policy, practice and cross system changes to reduce the disproportionate representation of children of color in the CWS, as well as to improve outcomes for children and families of color across the state of California.

2009 WGED Accomplishments:

- Continued participation as a state level team in the California Disproportionality Project (CDP): The final two of four Learning Sessions (Convenings) were completed in January and May of 2010 where 14 county teams continued to build resources, skills and capacities of the collaborative participants to improve practice and outcomes for children and families of color.
- Development of training materials that will encompass and synthesize the work of the CDP will be provided to guide counties in enhancing their efforts to diminish disproportionality and disparity (D&D) in child welfare. The materials will also be made available to the

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Regional Training Academies (RTAs) for integration into existing and future curriculum for new and on-going social workers.

- Continued cross-system sharing of information and training on data collection and upcoming projects related to D&D.
- Provided presentations on data collection specific to D&D by the CSSR, UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare to WGED and additional staff from each state agency.
- Development of the following:
 - Strategies for each SIT member agency/system to have open, courageous conversations regarding D&D, to include: a) facilitation of “Bias: Impact on Decision Making” workshop on April 23, 2010, for the SIT and invited leadership from the member agencies, b) interagency workshop held on June 28, 2010, to create department “teams” to promote the work in their organizations and c) develop and implement agency/department level strategies for strengthening awareness of D&D issues with implementation targeted for September 2010.
 - Compilation of an inventory of available training/education resources on D&D with the purpose of sharing resources, identifying opportunities for collaboration, reducing duplication and maximizing use of resources across departments.

Co-occurrence Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Workgroup

The Leadership Group, facilitated by the AOC, includes representation at the state and local level of child welfare, prevention and domestic violence (DV) service delivery providers.

- In 2009, work continued on the two-year project, funded in part by a grant from Blue Shield, to identify and define the variety of services and challenges in addressing DV and the impact of children exposed to DV.
- The Leadership Group met more frequently in 2009 and early 2010 to analyze the responses to the 2009 statewide survey of 113 DV providers and 62 managers of child welfare agencies.
- Follow-up interviews were conducted with 22 respondents to cull the greatest understanding of the promising practices and challenges in meeting the needs of families and children.
- Preliminary highlights and recommendations have been drafted. A final report will be presented to the SIT in the fall of 2010.
- To more fully engage state agencies in the survey of resources, the Leadership Group facilitated a self assessment workshop in April 2010, with representatives of nine California departments to explore how each agency addresses the issues and challenges presented by DV in families with children, each agency team had the opportunity to develop a plan for next steps to take to deepen the agency’s capacity to protect and support the safety and well-being of the adults and children in these families.

The Core Indicator Workgroup

Although this workgroup ended its outcome activities in 2007, member recommendations from the Department of Health Services, DMH, Developmental Services, and DAPD and the Judicial

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Council continue to help inform various discussions regarding data linkage, particularly, the Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee of the California CWC.

The Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership

A public-private partnership, which continues to focus on priority improvement areas to identify and support programs, policies and practice that improve and sustain the safety, permanency and well-being of California's children, youths and families. The Partnership sets annual priorities for strategic investment, in consultation with its Advisory Committee. In June 2010, the CDSS management team introduced the discussion of the agency's plans to revise the way the CDSS constructs our CFSP and APSR and to include more analysis of California's CWS programs with the goal of improved evidence based practices and improved evaluation methods. The Partnership responded with a commitment to assist in making the CFSP more visible to stakeholders and embraced throughout the state. The Partnership also pledged its intention to increase stakeholder participation in the future. The CDSS is in the process of planning how to incorporate these goals into practice within the Partnership. The Partnership established the following priority goals for 2010:

- *Permanency and Well-Being for Children and Youth:* Improve permanency and well-being outcomes for children and youth in foster care and those at risk of CWS involvement by promoting concepts and strategies throughout multiple systems that help to connect to, strengthen and preserve families.
- *Federal Finance Reform:* Expand California's access to and utilization of federal resources to improve the state's capacity to provide the necessary services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.
- *Fostering Connections to Success:* Increase the ability of the child welfare and education systems to ensure each foster child and youth has essential family connections and receives support needed to succeed in school and make successful transitions by informing and engaging leaders and stakeholders on targeted activities across both systems.
- *Program Evaluation:* Collect and disseminate information and create opportunities for key stakeholders and partners to guide the development of an informative evaluation process that supports CWS improvement efforts and future investments.

Summary of the Partnership major accomplishments for 2010:

- Facilitated investments in the Child Welfare Services Program Improvement Fund: In SFY 2009/10, the Co-Investment Partnership effectively leveraged more than \$1.8 million to achieve a total investment of more than \$3 million in critical child welfare strategies and practices, including support of the following projects:
 - Early Learning/Safe Starts
 - Family to Family
 - California Connected by 25 Initiative (CC25)
 - Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) on Independent Living Transformation
 - Racial Disproportionality Project
 - California Permanency for Youth Project

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- Convened ad hoc workgroups and conducted research in the Partnership’s priority areas of permanency, education and mental health. Workgroup activities resulted in the development of comprehensive approaches and materials needed to increase the understanding of the child welfare system and promote system-wide improvements:
 - *Fostering Connections Workgroup*: Provided support to coordinate public education efforts related to implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act in California; and coordinated a press conference featuring the release of a research study on outcomes of emancipated foster youth.
 - *Permanency Sustainability Workgroup*: Worked collaboratively with Partnership organizations to facilitate resources and investments to promote improved permanency practices; initiated “Love and Belonging. For a Lifetime.” statewide campaign for state and local child welfare and court professionals; and produced and disseminated 30,000 calendars featuring art by children and youth in foster care.
 - *Foster Youth Education Workgroup*: Worked to increase agreement of the critical role early care has on school success; secured a commitment of key stakeholders to create a plan to improve the understanding of the unique social and emotional needs of young children; and supported a robust network of child welfare and education professionals focused on sharing key insights and program strategies aimed at improving successful transitions and support for emancipating youth.
- *Supported an Integration Team*: Efforts resulted in the coordination of multiple efforts throughout California that better ensure consistency in practice and prevent duplication of efforts. Specific efforts included support for the BSC on ILP Transformation and the piloting of the Families for Life Permanency Teaming model in five sites across the state.
- *Implemented Public Education and Outreach Program to Support Partnership Priorities*: Focused on increasing the understanding of the needs of children and families in the child welfare system and California’s progress in improving foster care outcomes through the development and dissemination of public education materials and support of public awareness events:
 - *Insights into Policy*: Bi-annual publication that highlights California’s performance in improving child welfare outcomes.
 - *Child Welfare Services Information Kit*: Includes key facts about child welfare, outcomes and chronology of child welfare landmarks.
 - *Child Welfare Co-Investment Annual Report*: Outlines year long priorities, goals, activities and Partnership investments.
 - *Foster Care and Adoption Month Events*: Developed public education materials that provided an overview of key foster care and adoption issues and activities taking place during the two public awareness months of each May and November. Efforts resulted in statewide media coverage.
- *Conducted Targeted Outreach to Policymakers*: Worked to inform policymakers on the needs of vulnerable children and families and the impact of various policy and budget proposals and conducted briefings and outreach for key legislative staff on the needs of children and families in the CWS and efforts to improve outcomes.

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Casey Family Programs in California

Casey Family Programs support the work of California's CWS to ensure safe, strong and permanent families for vulnerable children. In 2010, the Foundation will invest more than \$14.1 million in California to help prevent child abuse and neglect, strengthen at-risk families and move children out of foster care and into safe, loving families. Casey Family Programs operates four offices in California and partners with twenty California counties. The Sacramento office supports child welfare system and policy improvements statewide. Offices in Los Angeles, Oakland and San Diego work with county child welfare departments and other partners to support improved outcomes and provide direct services to children in foster care, making sure they are safely returned to their families or connected with other permanent families.

Together with the CDSS, the Stuart Foundation and the California Co-Investment Partnership, Casey supports the Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) on Disproportionality. Twelve counties and a state team participate in an effort to significantly reduce disproportionality and outcome disparities for Black and American Indian children in foster care. This work also generated intense interest and support to improve collaborations on behalf of Indian families and children, and will produce a tool kit to support American Indian work.

Casey also helped fund three national BSCs in which California counties participated: Timely Permanence through Reunification (4 counties); Safety and Risk Assessments (4 counties) and Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Integration (1 county).

Finally, Marguerite Casey Foundation funding was provided to three counties: Los Angeles for "Up Front assessment;" Sacramento for parent support work related to "pre-dependency" drug court; and Riverside for "back-end DR" or post-permanency support.

Partnering for Sustainable Change

Strategic partnerships are the cornerstone of Casey Family Programs' work statewide and in counties. As an active member of the California Co-Investment Partnership, a private-public collaboration including CDSS, CWDA, AOC and five foundations, Casey Family Programs work to ensure that funding and support for innovative programs and practices are coordinated and leveraged statewide for the greatest impact. In counties, Casey supports increased cross-systems collaboration that promotes best practices linking child welfare, probation, the courts, mental health, education and employment systems for improved outcomes.

Other notable partnerships include the Foster Month Coalition which celebrates county-based teams exemplifying effective practice collaborations and state leaders which support excellence in child welfare; and the Foster Youth Education Task Force, which shares information statewide and supports best practice and improved policy to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in care.

Citizen Review Panels (CRPs)

As required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the CDSS has established three CRPs, including two local and one statewide panel. The judicial branch/AOC has one representative who sits on the statewide panel. The function of CRPs is to evaluate the effectiveness with which state and local child protection agencies are discharging their

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responsibilities. Evaluation involves examining child protection policies, practices, and procedures. Recommendations are then made to county and state governments for improvement. The membership of the panels draws from child advocates, parent leaders, tribal leaders, foundation officers, county mental health managers, county counsels, parents and children's attorneys, foster parents, social workers, the AOC and other child welfare professionals. Membership is also geographically diverse with representatives from both metropolitan and rural counties in California.

In addition to making recommendations annually to the CDSS, the statewide panel is also charged with reviewing and providing comment upon the APSR, which updates the CFSP prior to its submission to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Collaboration with Tribes

The CDSS' ICWA Workgroup was formed in July 2002. It continues to expand its membership which now consists of 90 tribal ICWA workers/advocates, 57 county child welfare and probation representatives, 19 CDSS staff and 35 state/university representatives, and other interested parties. The CDSS utilizes the ICWA Workgroup as a means of consulting and collaborating with tribes on issues related to child welfare.

The ICWA Workgroup continues to meet bi-monthly to identify ICWA issues and develop recommendations and solutions for tribes, counties and the state. The agenda for ICWA workgroup meetings is set in accordance with issues and topics which emerge from discussions in the workgroup, or in discussions that occur as the CDSS staff consult with tribal and county representatives throughout the state.

The CDSS has contracted with the AOC for a number of years to provide training and technical assistance on ICWA for juvenile courts. In November 2009, the AOC established, as part of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, a Tribal Projects Unit. The purpose of this unit is to serve as liaison to tribal communities in California and to assist the judicial branch with the development of policies, positions and programs to ensure the highest quality of justice and service for California's Native American communities in cases relating to ICWA, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

In December 2009, the Chief Justice of the California Courts, tribal court judges, and other state court leaders held a convening to discuss issues of family violence and the role their judiciaries could play to address a number of issues raised. Resulting from the meeting was a commitment to continue working on priority areas of mutual concern and shared interest. Specifically, the tribal and state court leaders agreed to the following scope of on-going work: 1) the enforcement and recognition of orders/judgments relating to family law, civil procedure, juvenile law, domestic violence; 2) addressing concurrent jurisdictional issues (i.e., determining, sharing, and coordinating jurisdiction, transferring cases, and access to records between jurisdictions); 3) developing and sharing educational resources; 4) undertaking joint rules and forms development and revision, as well as providing assistance to adapt state Judicial Council forms for use by interested tribal courts; 5) sharing grant resources and 6) addressing the lack of tribal court access to data.

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With AOC staff support, these tribal and state court leaders have continued this work together and the results have been positive. Short-term achievable steps have already been taken. Tribal court judges have access to all AOC educational resources through a secured website maintained for state court judges. Tribal court judges have access to Judicial Council forms and technical assistance from the AOC to adapt those forms for their own courts if they so choose. Tribal courts have access to a list of grants maintained by the AOC. Tribal and state court judges are developing presentations to showcase their partnerships at the local level and to present on court protocols to mutually enforce orders. These presentations, along with a presentation on Public Law (PL) 280 were featured at the AOC's annual conference, Beyond the Bench, in June 2010.

Additionally, in May 2010, the CDSS signed an agreement with the Yurok Tribe – the largest American Indian Tribe in California – that allows the Tribe to draw down federal funding to provide child welfare services to tribal members. This agreement, the second of its kind in California, provides for the Yurok Tribe's foster care and adoption assistance benefits to be handled internally by the Tribe. Services will transfer to the Tribe once a Tribal Welfare Services Plan is adopted and programs are in place. The CDSS will provide oversight.

TITLE IV-B FUNDING

The ACF provides funds to the CDSS to help operate every aspect of the child welfare system. The funds include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Child Welfare Services: Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Social Security Act* - Preventive intervention, alternative placements, and reunification efforts to keep families together.
- *Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act:* Family support, family preservation and support, time-limited family reunification services, and services to support adoptions.
- *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants:* Assistance to improve state child protective service systems.
- *John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program:* Funds to help older youth in foster care and former foster care youth acquire training and independent living skills so they can become self-sufficient.
- CAPTA and Chafee funding are discussed later in the APSR.

Title IV-B Subpart 1 Funds - Stephanie Tubbs Act

Title IV-B, Part I funds are allocated directly to counties, along with other state and federal funds to help finance county child welfare services, and will continue to be utilized by counties to fund the same programs for the upcoming fiscal year. County Fiscal Letter (CFL) NO. 08/09-31 informed counties of their planning allocations for the year. The data presented in the Safety section of this report is used to evaluate CDSS' progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the CFSP and identified outcomes, determining strengths and promising practices, and identifying the obstacles and barriers.

Title IV-B Subpart 2 Funds - Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)

California continues to use the PSSF grant to establish, expand and operate a program of family preservation services, community-based family support services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services. The CDSS allocates 90 percent of the PSSF grant directly to counties to fund direct services that contribute to a comprehensive family services continuum which improves outcomes for children and families. The outcome data used to assess the progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the CFSP is also used to move counties to a more thorough evaluation of programs funded by PSSF.

The CDSS sets aside 10 percent of the total PSSF grant for state support and projects that support counties in their efforts to build and maintain a collaborative and coordinated child and family delivery system that is inclusive and covers the spectrum of services from prevention through adoption and emancipation.

The CDSS, in collaboration with the CWDA, integrated California's Outcomes and Accountability System, County Self Assessment (CSA), and the System Improvement Plan (SIP) with the consolidated CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF three-year plan. On August 13, 2009, the CDSS disseminated ACIN I-53-09 announcing the release of the revised CSA and SIP user guides which now include the state and federal requirements for CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF.

The integration of the CSA and SIP with the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF three-year plan allows the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) consultants to work closely with CWS and community partners during the development of the CSA and SIP. The OCAP consultants, along with the Outcomes and Accountability (OA) Bureau staff, attend local planning meetings in each county as they develop their CSA and SIP. The OCAP consultants provide valuable input to the CSA and SIP team members regarding how PSSF funded services can meet the unmet need or continued needs identified in the county self assessments, as well as informing the teams of the PSSF requirements.

This process provides OCAP consultants an opportunity to provide critical technical assistance to ensure PSSF services from each category are available in all counties. In addition, during the annual reporting process, the consultants will ensure the goals as stated in each county's SIP are being met.

In SFY 2009/10, California was very close to achieving state compliance with the requirement to spend a minimum of twenty percent per category on a statewide basis as indicated below:

Table 1: PSSF Distribution of Funds

PSSF Categories	Percentage
Family Preservation	29.26%
Family Support	28.64%
Adoption Promotion and Support	22.44%
Time-Limited Family Reunification	19.66%

Counties set goals to meet the PSSF twenty percent requirements based on their community needs assessments.

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The services described below are examples of many of the services counties fund with PSSF and a variety of other fund sources as an effort to maximize the breadth and depth of service array utilized by counties to meet their specific needs within the categorical framework.

Family Preservation

Services aimed at children and families at-risk or in crisis to include: pre-placement preventive services programs such as in-home visiting programs to help maintain children safely in their homes; reunification of children with families whom they were removed when safe and appropriate such as substance abuse treatment; adoption, guardianship or alternate planned permanent living arrangement services such as family finding searches; follow-up care to families whom a child has returned after a foster care placement such as integrated case management and intensive home visiting; respite care for parents, caregivers and foster parents; strength based parenting education and support aimed at improving parenting skills such as parent and child interactive therapies which promote positive parent-child relationships and interactions.

Family Support

Services aimed at promoting safety and well being for children while strengthening and stabilizing families to include: health care support such as health screenings, physical examinations and nutrition education classes; behavioral health services such as individual and family counseling (available in home), domestic violence classes and anger management; information and referral; mentoring; housing assistance; self sufficiency and life management skills such as budgeting workshops and leadership development; transitional housing and homeless prevention; transportation.

Time-Limited Family Reunification

Services aimed at facilitating reunification safely, appropriately and timely between children placed in foster care and their parents to include; individual, group and family counseling; inpatient, residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment; domestic violence classes and support; transportation; in home intensive therapeutic and behavioral support; temporary child care including crisis nurseries; case plan development; family assessment and referral; father involvement; parenting education such as child development and age appropriate discipline.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services

Services aimed at promoting adoption when in the best interest of the child to include: adoptive parent recruitment such as public service announcements, orientation meetings, community wide outreach and child specific searches; adoptive parent education such as mandatory trainings related to the home study process; adoptive parent support such as workshops, trainings and other resources; post-adoption support such as information and referral, trainings, lending libraries and parent support groups; activities to expedite and support the adoption process such as transportation assistance and therapeutic behavioral services.

Service provision is determined by the counties' community needs assessments. For example, there is a greater need for family preservation and support services in rural areas where isolation is a challenge to families, but the size of the population does not support a wide variety of adoption services. Greater parity among categories of service are found in the urban areas where the larger population increases the need for, and provision of, family reunification, adoption and adoption support services.

The enclosed CFS-101, PART II: Annual Summary of Child and Family Services form includes specific data on the estimated number of individuals and/or families to be served, and the estimated expenditures by fund source for the services

The CDSS' contacts with the counties found that not all services are accessible to families in all geographic regions of the state. Particularly in rural areas, lack of readily accessible transportation can impede service delivery. Limited availability of appropriate foster family homes makes it more difficult to access and provide time-limited family reunification services. The smaller populations make adoptive parent recruitment and provision of post-adoption services more challenging. Both the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and the CDSS county contacts also revealed gaps in culturally appropriate services specifically suited to Native American communities.

The CFSR noted the following additional service gaps, which relate to the four categories of service to be provided through PSSF:

- Supervised visitation resources for children.
- Substance abuse treatment facilities for parents with young children.
- Post-adoption services.
- Respite care.
- Affordable housing.

The county SIPs are being used to address service gaps, although budget constraints have impaired major progress in this area. Technical assistance will continue to be provided to the counties as they develop their CSAs and SIPs including meeting the categorical expenditure requirement. The OCAP will also consider each county's information in relation to the state in total to ensure that goals are met on a statewide basis.

The OCAP has oversight responsibility for the PSSF Program and provides technical assistance to the counties to ensure that the funds are utilized for the purpose that they were intended and that there is coordination with other funding and programs with similar intent. Counties are encouraged to maximize services through linking to other fund sources. As a rule, counties blend funds from available sources that include: PSSF, CBCAP, the CAPIT, the Children's Trust Fund, funds from tobacco tax (First 5), city and county funds, foundations, and private donations. The intent is to maximize services by providing a continuum of services for children and families from all agencies serving families.

For example, in 47 of California's 58 counties, child welfare agencies are using PSSF, CBCAP, the CAPIT Program, the Children's Trust Fund and other sources to fund various home visiting programs. In some counties these funds are also combined with other funding streams from other agencies (such as health) to provide these services. In SFY 2009/10, 107,825 clients

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received some type of home visiting services. With the new federal home visiting grants available, California plans to apply for the funds in order to expand home visiting.

Counties are using a variety of sources to fund the implementation and expansion of DR, including PSSF, grant funds, etc. (Additional information about DR is included in the Safety Section.) The ability to maintain these programs, as well as any future expansion, is dependent on the availability of funds. The PSSF funds will continue to be used to broaden the network of services available to serve families that do not have an open case in the CWS system. These services are essential for the early intervention intake system within a DR framework. They allow CWS to respond earlier, with greater flexibility, and with customized services and support for families, ensuring child safety and reducing or eliminating entry or re-entry into the CWS system. The PSSF funds will continue to be used to build this network of services through the partnership between CWS and community providers.

Funding for future years is heavily dependent on the amount of State General Fund (SGF) monies available for the CWS System improvement activities. Although PSSF funding is utilized, the amount of federal funds received is insufficient to sustain these improvements.

CALIFORNIA'S EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVEMENT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The State remains steadfast in its commitment to continuous quality improvement of child welfare services in spite of California's fiscal challenges. As such, this section integrates information from multiple sources which report on California's progress toward the goals and objectives designed to improve and address the outcomes and systemic factors identified in the CFSP, including specific details regarding the CDSS' activities toward PIP goals, analyses of the relevant Outcome and Composite Measures identified in the CFSR and the PIP and narrative discussion of how current programs address efforts to improve California's overall system. The analyses of the Outcomes and Composite Measures provide a more accurate, data supported depiction of specific CWS program and services over the past year. In addition to the information submitted to ACF within the PIP, CSAs and SIPs, this section provides a more substantial dialogue regarding California's progress and helps determine improved paths for future goals. As a further concerted effort towards a cycle of constant improvement, the CDSS provides descriptions of the various Program Improvement Plans in which the CDSS is engaged: 1) Title IV-E Foster Care, 2) AAP, 3) AFCARS, 4) Caseworker Visit, and 5) CFSR. Each plan is described below, with the CFSR PIP further detailed in the following section and included as an attachment to this report, and the details of Caseworker Visit PIP are described further in the Well-Being section of this document. This more inclusive approach marks California's first steps toward a broader perspective of evaluation and planning.

In addition, the state's quality assurance system, known as the California-Children and Family Services Review or C-CFSR, establishes an outcomes-based review system. The system is patterned after the federal CFSR, using Peer Quality Case Reviews (PQCRs), County Self-Assessments (CSAs) and System Improvement Plans (SIPs) to assess, monitor, and track county CWS performance and improvements. The Outcomes and Accountability (OA) Bureau works collaboratively with counties throughout the PQCR, CSA and SIP processes. Additionally, the OA Bureau monitors county performance on outcome measures and status of the implementation of SIP strategies with calls or site visits scheduled quarterly. County SIPs and SIP updates are posted on the CDSS website at: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1419.htm>. Additionally, there are plans to post the PQCR reports and CSAs in the near future.

CALIFORNIA'S PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Title IV-E Foster Care Review PIP

California's Title IV-E Foster Care Review was conducted the week of September 14-18, 2009. The ACF found that California's Title IV-E foster care maintenance program is not in substantial compliance with federal child and provider eligibility requirements for the period of October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. As a result, California is required to develop a PIP to correct areas found to be in non-compliance.

California's Title IV-E Foster Care Review PIP was developed in collaboration with a myriad of stakeholders that included the CWDA, the Division of Community Care Licensing (CCL), County

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Welfare and Probation Departments, AOC, and FCARB. The ACF approved the PIP with an effective date of June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011.

The identified areas of non-compliance are; AFDC eligibility, on-going court requirements, licensing and/or approval of foster family homes, and safety requirements at foster care facilities. California's PIP includes three strategies designed to address areas of non-compliance; training, monitoring, and the issuance of program instructions to county welfare and probation departments. To date all training related to the PIP has been completed and the CDSS is moving forward with action items related to monitoring of Title IV-E cases.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program Review (AAP) PIP

The ACF reviewed California's Title IV-E Plan and concluded that the AAP is inconsistent with Federal law. As a result of the Federal review, California submitted a request to amend its Title IV-E State Plan to ACYF in 2007. The request was in response to the following program instructions (PI): ACYF-CB-PI-06-06 regarding changes made to the Social Security Act (SSA) by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA); ACYF-CB-PI-07-02 regarding changes made to the SSA by the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006; and ACYF-CB-PI-07-04 regarding the changes made by the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

In May 2008, ACF notified the State of the areas of non-compliance with AAP Federal requirements and requested the State to submit a PIP. As a result of inquiries and discussions among CDSS staff and Region IX staff, the AAP PIP was approved in June 2009 and is to be completed by December 2010. The AAP PIP includes amendments to AAP statutes, regulations, policies and procedures to bring the state into compliance with federal requirements related to AAP Eligibility; AAP Agreements and Payment Amounts; AAP Reassessments and Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses. Pending completion of the PIP, an ACL was released September 29, 2009 that provided interim direction in the following areas: AAP Eligibility; AAP Agreements and Payment Amounts; AAP Reassessments and Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses. All proposed statute language was achieved via Assembly Bill (AB) X4 4 effective July 28, 2009 and Senate Bill (SB) 597 signed October 11, 2009 effective January 1, 2010. The outstanding items to be completed per the AAP PIP are the regulation revisions and the changes to the Eligibility Certification AAP 4 form. The estimated time for completion of the revised regulations is August 2011. The AAP 4 changes have been completed but are awaiting the form to be made available on the CDSS website.

AFCARS Assessment Review Improvement Plan (IP).

The Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) collects case level information from within the states Statewide Automated Child Welfare System (SACWIS) database on all children in foster care for whom State child welfare agencies have responsibility for placement, care or supervision and on children who are adopted under the auspices of the State's public child welfare agency. AFCARS also includes information on foster and adoptive parents. States are required to submit AFCARS data semi-annually to ACF.

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AFCARS data is utilized for a number of reasons, including:

- Adoption Incentives Program
- Child Welfare Outcomes Report
- Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR)
- Title IV-E Eligibility Reviews
- Allotment of funds in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)
- Trend analyses and short and long-term planning
- Targeting areas for greater or potential technical assistance efforts, for discretionary service grants, research and evaluation, and regulatory change
- Responding to request for data from Federal, State and private agencies

For California, the AFCARS deficiencies are identified through an AFCARS assessment review process which results in the development of an AFCARS Improvement Plan (IP). Those identified data collection and reporting deficiencies must be corrected in order for the State to meet the requirements established in the AFCARS Federal regulation at 45 CFR 1355.40. The AFCARS database contains 66 foster care and 37 Adoption specific data elements. The elements/general requirements that receive a “3” or lower in the ongoing assessment review make up the action items to be addressed in the IP. The CDSS makes the changes to the information system and/or data in order to meet the applicable requirements and standards in as timely a manner as possible, providing, updates of its progress to the ACF Regional Office.

Currently, the CDSS has ongoing communications with ACF regarding its identified deficiencies. As a result several systems changes, policy development, methodologies and tests have been conducted or are in the process of being implementation in order to conform to AFCARS requirements.

Caseworker Visits Program Review PIP

The FFY 2010-11 PIP for Caseworker Visits focused on bringing California into compliance with the monthly visit requirement by promulgating regulations eliminating visit exceptions and implementing reporting of probation and Foster Family Agency (FFA) monthly visits. Reporting forms for FFAs have been implemented and FFA reporting has already begun. A pilot is currently under way in three counties to train Probation officers (POs) on entering data into CWS/CMS. The regulations package which will eliminate most of the monthly visit exceptions is scheduled for public hearing November 10, 2010, and it is anticipated that it will be finalized by August of 2011. Due to delays caused by the budget crisis and resulting furloughs, the CDSS will be unable to make the original December 31, 2010 deadline for the regulations and will be requesting to renegotiate this PIP.

California’s Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) PIP

In recent years, the CDSS has increasingly utilized evidence-based practices to bring about change in the child welfare system. Evidence-based practices are those that have empirical research supporting their efficacy. As part of this effort, during the first PIP, the CDSS sponsored and continues to sponsor the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse which is a critical tool for identifying, selecting, and implementing evidence-based child welfare practices

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that will improve child safety, increase permanency, increase family and community stability and promote child and family well-being.

A number of evidence-based strategies designed to improve the child welfare system in California are discussed below in some detail. While each strategy is presented individually, it is important to note that several of these strategies work in concert to produce the desired change. Similarly, many of the outcomes measured during the CFSR and noted in the PIP are affected by multiple strategies.

I. Expand use of participatory case planning strategies.

Findings indicate a need to increase engagement of youth, families, caregivers, tribes and service providers in the case planning and decision making processes. Several case planning engagement approaches are being used across the state; however, they do not exist in all areas.

A number of key concerns emerged from the most recent CFSR that will be addressed by using this strategy. For example, it was noted that there was uneven practice in the involvement of children and parents in the decision-making process. Similarly, engagement of tribes for case planning and service delivery were found deficient (for further details of the key concerns, please see the summary of concerns in the next section).

II. Sustain and enhance permanency efforts across the life of the case.

Our review indicated that some efforts and practices to achieve a permanent, stable family for children and youth are not applied throughout the life of a case. Specific concerns raised during the CFSR revolved around inconsistent practices in concurrent planning and reunification efforts. Moreover, these practices may not be uniform across the state. Difficulties with timely notification of court proceedings to interested parties (i.e., caregivers, youth, tribes, etc.) were noted. Finally, several issues surrounding permanency included insufficient efforts to identify extended family members and support existing relationships of children removed from the home.

Findings show that even though progress has been made, efforts to obtain a permanent family for a child do not always continue when reunification (returning youth to their family) is not successful or when adoption or guardianship is not readily available.

III. Enhance and expand caregiver recruitment, training, and support efforts.

Findings show there are not enough foster homes for children and youth in need of foster care (Redding, Fried, & Britner, 2000). There is a need to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts to ensure placements for foster children and youth are available and stable. There is also a need to find and support extended family and kin (Hartnett et al., 1999). These issues were echoed in the CFSR report. Similarly, training and support for foster families needs to be improved. It has been shown that children's outcomes are at least somewhat related to support of caregivers including financial compensation (Duncan & Argys, 2007). These concerns were raised by a number of stakeholders during the review. Moreover, it was noted that while there are a number of promising pilot programs in place, there is no strategy for statewide implementation.

IV. Expand options and create flexibility for services and supports to meet the needs of children and families.

There are not enough services that are within the reach of children and families involved in the child welfare system. Limited access to high quality mental health services, inpatient substance abuse treatment, therapeutic foster care, and post adoption and guardianship services were shown to be among the most needed. Practices such as Wraparound improved access through coordination of services. Not enough transportation services and gaps in foreign language interpreters and culturally trained providers were also identified as barriers to obtaining services.

V. Sustain and expand staff/supervisor training.

One of the improvement activities created during the first CFSR was the implementation of a standardized core set of courses to train new social workers and supervisors. It also provided for ongoing training. It was put into place to have uniform training across the state. New rules are in place as of July 1, 2008, to make the core training a mandatory requirement. Despite this change, there are a number of issues raised in the latest CFSR that are amenable to change through various forms of training. Some of the areas identified as training priorities include social workers' use of concurrent planning and permanency issues. Also, there is a need to focus on training related to high needs children and youth. Probation staff reported their need for increased child welfare training as well.

VI. Strengthen implementation of the statewide safety, risk and needs assessment system.

Although there are indications that the standardized safety assessment system is effective in assessing risk and identifying the services needed to address risks, some concerns were identified in the CFSR. There is a body of evidence that suggests that increased visits with social workers are related to more positive outcomes in children (Bronson, 2005). In a few California cases, some services were provided, but they did not adequately address the safety issues in the family, and the children remained at risk in the home. In several cases, there was a general lack of adequate safety and risk assessments in the child's home during the period under review. In addition, there were few attempts to engage families in the process of determining risks. Again, engagement of the family has been linked to more positive outcomes for children and families (Littell & Tajima, 2000; Loman & Siegel, 2004a). Finally, the CFSR reviewers noted a lack of quality social workers visits that included an evaluation of strengths and needs. The inclusion of Differential Response, including the on-going review of family strengths and needs is related to a number of positive outcomes for children including increased family engagement (Loman & Siegel, 2004a, 2004b), community involvement (Siegel & Loman, 2000) and increases in services provided (Institute of Applied Research, 2005). Moreover, the use of Differential Response comes at no cost to the safety of children (Loman & Siegel, 2004b).

Through these six broad strategies, California will continue to build on existing relationships and programs to improve the child welfare system and subsequently, improve the lives of children and families. The PIP is attached to this report as Attachment A, and is available for review at the following website address: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/res/pdf/ApprovedPIP.pdf>

COMPLETED CFSR PIP ACTION STEPS

The following Action Steps were completed during the first through third quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3) (07/01/09 to 03/31/10). More information regarding CDSS' planned and completed PIP action steps are available on CDSS' website where currently the second and third quarterly reports are posted. The fourth quarterly report will be posted upon approval by ACF.

Strategy 1: Expand use of participatory case planning strategies.

Goal: Increase engagement of children/youth, families and others in case planning and decision-making processes across the life of the case for safety, permanency, and well-being.

Activities:

- *ACIN No. 1-67-09 on Measurement of Family Engagements Efforts (Q1):* In September 2009, the CDSS issued an ACIN about the new data measure on Family Engagement Efforts. The data measure is currently establishing baseline data. Additionally, funds have been allocated to counties to increase participatory case planning efforts.
- *ACIN No. 1-70-09 on family engagement and participatory case planning guidelines for the Linkages Project (Q2):* In November 2009, the CDSS issued an ACIN about how the Linkages program can help accomplish the increased use of family engagement strategies in case planning.
- *Reviewed, revised and disseminated Permanency Protocols based on lessons learned through the Eleven-County Pilot Project (Q3):* The Permanency Protocols were reviewed based on the results of the Eleven-County Pilot Project final report. It was found that the existing Permanency Protocols were appropriate and therefore were reissued to the counties in ACIN No. 1-24-10 in March 2010. The Permanency Protocols identified three strategies that would enhance the permanency of foster care children served by child welfare agencies within the State. These three strategies included Team Decision Making (TDM), Family Participation in Case Planning, and Youth Inclusion in Case Planning.
- *Developed family engagement and participatory case planning guidelines for Linkages Project and incorporated guidelines into Linkages semi-annual meetings (Q3):* In November 2009, the CDSS in conjunction with the Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) developed the "Guidelines for Enhancing Family Participation through Coordinated Case Planning" guide. The guide provided critical information and guidance to both Linkages and non-Linkages counties on how the Linkages program can help accomplish the increased use of family engagement strategies in case planning. The key approaches are:
 - TDMs, the process where family, community and the child welfare agency collaborate to make decisions about the child's safety and placement.
 - Family Participation in Case Planning which is a case planning process that actively engages families in defining their strengths and identifying resources that will address the problems which resulted in the disruption of their family.

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Strategy 2: Sustain and enhance permanency efforts across the life of the case.

Goal: Enhance practices and strategies that result in more children/youth having permanent homes and connections to communities, culture and important adults.

Activities:

- *Residentially Based Services (RBS) County proposals submitted (Q1):* This is a five-year pilot demonstration project aimed at transforming the state's current system of long-term congregate care to a system of RBS programs which combine short-term residential stabilization and treatment with follow along community- based services to reconnect youth to their families, schools and communities. Proposals were submitted from four counties: San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Sacramento and the Bay Area Consortium. The four demonstration sites have selected their participating private non-profit agency partners and worked together collaboratively to develop their RBS program plan, which includes: the Voluntary Agreement, Alternative Funding Model, and Waiver Request. The Voluntary Agreement serves as the agreement between the county and private non-profit agency, and delineates the details of their program design. The Alternative Funding Model outlines the payment system for their program in lieu of the current Rate Classification Level (RCL) used for paying private nonprofit child welfare group home providers in California. The Waiver Request, contingent on approval from the CDSS Director, will allow the counties to request to waive specific state child welfare regulations that may prohibit or impair the implementation of their RBS program. A 10 percent reduction in payments to foster care providers was enacted by the state budget effective October 1, 2009. A lawsuit was filed against this provider rate cut by the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. The ensuing court actions and appeals resulted in tremendous uncertainty concerning the appropriate rate levels for the RBS program, and resulted in multiple revisions and resubmissions of Alternative Funding Models by the pilot counties. This has delayed implementation for all demonstration sites. The CDSS continues to work with the counties to resolve these issues and anticipates full implementation of each demonstration site on a staggered basis beginning in June 2010 with a plan to have all demonstration sites implemented by September 2010. San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties' demonstration sites began serving children in June 2010. Sacramento and the Bay Area Consortium are scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- *Finalized methodology and tool for case reviews to determine quality of social worker visits with parents & children. Baseline established (Q2):* The CDSS developed the methodology and tool utilized in assessing the quality of social worker visits between parents and children and participated in the case review process. Regulations are in process to reflect the primary components of what a quality visit would include between a parent and their child. This information will help social workers and others monitoring these visits to appropriately redirect and teach parents techniques that could help them reunify with their children during the Family Reunification process.
- *Resource Family Approval Pilot (Q 1-3):* The CDSS convened a workgroup to develop a proposal for a consolidated home study, which would replace the existing separate processes and requirements for foster care licensing, relative and non-related extended family members' approval and adoption home studies all into a single process, using a single

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standard for approval. The anticipated program implementation date of July 2010 was contingent upon funding. Due to the state's continued fiscal constraints, in September 2009, the Administration proposed that the pilot program become suspended until an appropriation of funds become available to implement the program. Should the pilot program become operative in the future, the program shall operate, in up to five counties, through the end of the third full fiscal year following the implementation date.

Strategy 3: Enhance and expand caregiver recruitment, retention, training, and support efforts.

Goal: Improve caregiver support strategies and augment educational/training curriculum.

Activities:

- *Request for Technical Assistance for Recruitment and Retention of resource families (Q1):* In April 2009, the CDSS submitted a request for technical assistance from the National Resource Center (NRC) for the purpose of improving recruitment and retention of resource families. The NRC in conjunction with the CDSS provided a convening in September 2009 to solicit input from various stakeholders in California on improving recruitment and retention. The information was compiled into a report that included recommendations for statewide impact.
- *Caregiver Resource Directory (Q1):* The Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsman created a County Caregiver Resource Directory to provide caregivers with a list of county resources to obtain support services, education and training information. The list was distributed to county child welfare agencies, caregiver advocacy groups, foster parent associations, and various stakeholders in California.
- *Surveyed counties to identify promising practices at the local level around the statewide campaign to recruit/retain resources families. Summary report completed (Q2):* The CDSS issued its annual survey to all 58 counties in order to gather information on county efforts toward recruitment, retention and training of resource families. The results of the survey are compiled into a report that contains information on the best practices in recruitment and the most utilized activities for retention. The final report is currently in development. ACF has extended the completion due date by allowing the CDSS to submit the final report by the projected due date of July 2010.
- *Initiated the sharing of information via the caregiver network (Q2):* As of February 24, 2010, information is provided regularly to those on the caregiver list.
- *Identified and published information on resource family recruitment, retention, and training via the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC). Also provided training on evidence based practices on resource families, recruitment, retention, training, and caregiver-social worker partnership (Q3):* In January 2004, the OCAP awarded Children's Hospital San Diego a three year grant to develop, implement and maintain an evidence-based clearinghouse for child welfare practices in the State of California. The CEBC serves as an online connection for child welfare professionals, staff of public and private organization, academic institutions, and others who are committed to serving children and families. It provides the most current research and rating of specific evidence-based practices as a method of achieving improved outcomes of safety, permanency and well-

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being for children and families involved in the California public child welfare system. The CDSS has increasingly utilized evidence-based practices to bring about change in the child welfare system. Evidence-based practices are those that have empirical research supporting their efficacy. The CEBC is a critical tool for identifying, selecting, and implementing evidence-based child welfare practices that will improve child safety, increase permanency, increase family and community stability, and promote child and family well-being. One of the topics added recently was information on resource family recruitment and training. The site posts the results of a literature search and rates the efficacy of training and recruitment programs. The CEBC staff has conducted presentations statewide for public child welfare administrators and supervisors.

Strategy 4: Expand options and create flexibility for services and supports to meet the needs of children and families.

Goal: Increase statewide access to varied existing services options for children/youth, and families in foster care.

Activities:

- *ACIN No. I-53-09 for County Self Assessment (CSA) & System Improvement Plan (SIP) Guides (Q1):* On August 13, 2009, the CDSS disseminated ACIN I-53-09 announcing the release of the revised CSA and SIP user guides which now include the state and federal requirements of the CAPIT, CBCAP, and PSSF programs. In 2008, the CDSS released an instructional letter informing counties an interim CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF plan must be maintained until such a time as an integrated CSA and SIP (due after July 1, 2009) are approved by the CDSS. In this reporting period four counties have approved integrated CSAs and SIPs. The CDSS integration of the C-CFSR, CSA and SIP with the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF three-year plan has allowed OCAP consultants to work closely with CWS and community partners during the development of the CSA and SIP. This provides OCAP consultants an opportunity to provide critical technical assistance to ensure CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF services are available statewide, specifically in counties where the CSA process identifies specific unmet or continued needs that can be linked to these services. By coordinating the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF plan with the CSA and SIP, counties have maximized their resources, increased partnerships, and enhanced communication.
- *Wraparound Technical Assistance and Expansion-Provided technical assistance to non-wraparound counties to help assess their feasibility to implement wraparound (Q1):* The non-Wraparound counties of Mariposa, Sonoma, and Stanislaus received training and technical assistance in the development and implementation of a Wraparound Services Program.
- *Wraparound Technical Assistance and Expansion-Provided training and technical assistance to enable current wraparound counties to build capacity to serve more children (Q1):* Existing Wraparound counties participated in four regional sessions covering a variety of topics including Wraparound counts (slots), disenrollment/closure reasons, the CDSS site visits, special project code date entry, Parent Partner fidelity tool, outcome measures, cross

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county issues, Wraparound and adoptive families, Probation, fiscal strategies, training/technical assistance (T/TA) RFP and budget impacts.

- *Utilization of SIT to strengthen service array options (Q1):* SIT priority work plan objectives for SFY 2009/10 include: 1) decrease racial disproportionality and disparities in outcomes across systems with a focus on CWS; 2) share data across systems, 3) improve access to AOD services by families in the child welfare system; and 4) overcome real and perceived legal barriers to sharing “confidential” client information in order to strengthen services.
- *Utilization of CWC to expand substance abuse treatment services (Q1):* The Prevention/Early Intervention Committee is exploring the implications of prioritization of eligibility and streamlined services access to all departments of the Health and Human Services Agency and other partners. Early indications point strongly to prioritizing families at-risk for maltreatment for supports and services that include housing, alcohol and drug treatment, mental health, and other services in order to create a robust DR program.
- *TA application and acceptance from National Center for Substance Abuse & Child Welfare (Q1):* In collaboration with the DADP and the AOC, the CDSS developed a two year work plan with a comprehensive environmental scan as the first activity. In that effort, staff from the three agencies designed data and program survey protocols and made site visits with court observations of state or grant-funded dependency drug courts. Following site visits to state-funded courts, staff provided consultation and technical assistance. For others, training and technical assistance opportunities will be available in a later phase. With the support of the Judicial Council, key stakeholders in further development of dependency drug courts are now being identified and engaged. The three agencies are on schedule to deliver a comprehensive implementation plan with practice, training, technical assistance, data models and funding components.

Strategy 5: Sustain and expand staff/supervisor training.

Goal: Increase educational and training opportunities for staff and supervisors working in the child welfare system.

Activities:

- *CPOC survey of counties to assess probation training needs (Q1):* A needs assessment survey was conducted in 2007. The survey findings were included in the CPOC Training Plan 2008/09. A copy of the plan, including the list of 148 training topics resulting from the survey, was provided to ACF as evidence.
- *Implementation of new SW training regulations (Q1):* Social worker training regulations are in effect. Counties were notified by the ACL 08-23 issued on May 19, 2008 and by the ACIN I-21-09 issued on March 12, 2009 which answered frequently asked questions pertaining to the training regulations.
- *CPOC developed three new child welfare related curriculum for probation specific needs and delivered training. (Q4):* Increased the availability of the nine day probation officer core training via training announcements, and increased awareness of the availability of two-day mandated training for probation officers on Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), concurrent planning and visitation via training announcements.

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Strategy 6: Strengthen implementation of the statewide safety assessment system.

Goal: Improve timeliness of investigations and enhance services to families to ensure safety of child.

Activities:

- Strengthened implementation of the safety, risks, strengths, and needs assessment by enhancing training for trainers' curriculum.
- On August 17, 2009, ACL 09-31 was released to emphasize the importance of thoroughly assessing the safety and risk factors that may be present in each child abuse and/or neglect referral investigated by a county CWS agency. It also provided clarification on the requirement for written assessments throughout the life of a child welfare case <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2009/09-31.pdf>.
- *Enhance training for trainers' curriculum by incorporating data reviews as a method for supervisors to monitor timely completion of safety, needs, and risk assessments (Q3):* The training for trainer's curriculum has been enhanced with the incorporation of data reviews.
- *Provide training to build supervisor capacity to monitor fidelity to the assessment tool (Q3):* Training has been provided at the county level to build supervisor capacity to monitor fidelity of the use of the safety assessment tool.
- *Develop and deliver advanced training on interviewing for strengths and needs and writing individualized case plans in conjunction with family members (Q4):* An advanced training module has been developed and delivered via three webinars.

CALIFORNIA'S QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM:

CALIFORNIA-CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (C-CFSR)

The Outcomes and Accountability System was formed as a result of the passage of the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636) in 2001 and the federal Children and Family Services Reviews (CFSR). AB 636 was designed to improve outcomes for children in the child welfare system while holding county and state agencies accountable for the outcomes achieved.

In California, the statewide accountability system is referred to as the California-Children and Family Services Review or C-CFSR. It went into effect January 1, 2004, and is an enhanced version of the CFSR, the federal oversight system mandated by Congress and used to monitor states' performance.

The purpose of the C-CFSR is to significantly strengthen the accountability system used in California to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of maltreated children. As such, the C-CFSR operates on a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting of program outcomes. The C-CFSR is comprised of county child welfare system reviews and maximizes compliance with federal regulations for the receipt of federal Title IV-E and Title IV-B funds.

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The C-CFSR includes: 1) County Self-Assessments (CSA), 2) County Peer Quality Case Reviews (PQCR), 3) County System Improvement Plans (SIP), 4) Outcome and Accountability County Data Reports, and 5) State Technical Assistance and Monitoring.

The county self-assessment is a county's opportunity to explore how local program operations and other systemic factors affect measured outcomes. This review requires counties to prepare a document that addresses the CWS outcomes and indicators, local system characteristics, and any additional indicators and measures the county chooses to identify. In SFY 09-10, 12 CSAs were completed.

The purpose of the Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR) is to learn, through intensive examination of county child welfare practices, how to improve child welfare services and practices in California, both in participating counties and in other jurisdictions as well. The PQCR is one mechanism for understanding social worker practice rather than validating quantitative data. The PQCR goes beyond the self-assessment by bringing in outside expertise, including county peers, to help shed light on the strengths and weaknesses of child welfare services. In the last fiscal year (SFY 09-10), California completed 22 PQCRs.

County System Improvement Plans (SIPs) are the operational agreements between the county and state outlining how the county will improve its system of care for children and youth and forms an important part of the system for reporting on progress toward meeting agreed upon improvement goals using the C-CFSR outcomes and indicators. In the last fiscal year (SFY 09-10), California approved SIPs for 16 counties. The OA Bureau identified the following themes in the context of CSAs and SIPs that appear to be shared across many of these counties:

- TDM
- FGDM
- Family Finding
- Family Engagement Strategies
- Participatory Case Planning
- Increased collaboration from prevention through aftercare services
- Differential Response
- Concurrent planning training
- Budgetary impacts affecting implantation of SIP strategies

Many counties use the state CFSR PIP as a resource to draw from in developing broad strategies to impact multiple outcomes.

CFSR PIP MEASUREMENTS

Table 2 on the following page includes baseline measurements for California CWS Agencies and the CDSS' progress toward meeting each measurement. For those items marked, "In Development", the CDSS is currently developing the necessary methodology to establish baseline and target improvement measurements. These are discussed above under "Completed PIP Action Steps".

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Table 2: CFSR PIP Measurements

Measure	Baseline	Target Improvement	Qrt.1	Qrt.3 ²
Safety Outcome 1: Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care	99.71%	State met National Standard (99.68%)	—	
Outcome: Safety 1, Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	92.6%	93.2%	93.0%	93.2%
Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification	108.6	111.7	110.0	
Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions	95.3	99.2	99.8	—
Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Extended Time Periods	107.0	110	113.1	—
Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability	92.9	95.7	92.5	
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	94.5%	94.7%	94.7%	—
Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement ¹	14.7%	14.4%	13.8%	
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parent and foster parent (Wraparound Services)	5.4%	5.6%	5.9%	—
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal (Family Strengths and Needs Assessments Completed)	61.8%	62.3%	63.8%	66.7%
Item 4: Risk of harm to child (Risk Assessments completed within 65 days prior to case closing)	60.1%	60.6%	62.2%	63.5%
Item 4: Risk of harm to child (Safety Assessments completed within 65 days prior to case closing)	22.8%	23.2%	22.0%	23.5%
Item 7: Permanency goal established in timely manner	74.6%	75.3%	74.2%	67.8%
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning		In Development		
Measurement of Action Step 2.1- Family Finding		In Development		
Item 19: Caseworker Visits with Child	83.2%	83.4%		
Item 20: Caseworker Visits with Parents	63.1%	63.4%		
¹ Lower numbers are better.				
² Some Q3 data measures are collected via AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) and are unavailable until August 2010.				

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California's Efforts Toward Improvement: Goals and Objectives

ANALYSIS OF OUTCOME AND COMPOSITE MEASURES

As previously stated, the CDSS and the county CWS Agencies have increasingly utilized evidence-based practices to bring about change in the child welfare system. Among other tools used, the CDSS sponsors the CEBC which is a critical tool for identifying, selecting, and implementing evidence-based child welfare practices that will improve child safety, increase permanency, increase family and community stability, and promote child and family well-being. The safety outcomes and permanency composites developed from the CEBC tool, along with analyses of each, are discussed below.

SAFETY

Prevention and Early Intervention

Safety is integral to the prevention and early intervention of child abuse and neglect. Many programs funded with PSSF promote and support child safety within the child welfare continuum of services.

Some of the prevention and early intervention services currently provided across California counties include: individual, group, family and in home counseling; home visitation programs; transportation; homeless prevention and housing support such as vouchers, sustainable housing and hard goods; emergency assistance; intake and assessment/information and referral; domestic violence education and support; differential response programs; life management and self sufficiency skills; anger management education; substance abuse education, treatment and support; nutritional counseling; mentoring; child care support; child enrichment; youth development; educational support; teen pregnancy prevention and translation services.

The CDSS, in collaboration with the CWDA, integrated California's Outcomes and Accountability System, which includes the County Self Assessment (CSA), and the System Improvement Plan (SIP), with the consolidated CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF three-year plan. The integration of the CSA and SIP with the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF three year plan allows the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) consultants to work closely with CWS and community partners during the development of the CSA and SIP. A more comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative community-based approach to child abuse prevention and early intervention will better strengthen and support families, which in turn will improve child safety.

In an effort to gather more information regarding the prevention and early intervention efforts across counties, the OCAP revised the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF/CCTF SFY 2009-2010 annual report which collects information to comply with state and federal reporting requirements.

Safety Outcome 1 – Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence

A primary objective of the state child welfare system is to ensure that children who have been found to be victims of abuse or neglect are protected from further abuse or neglect, whether they remain in their own homes or are placed by the child welfare agency in a foster care

setting. The following safety-related national outcomes and measures were established to assess state performance with regard to protecting child victims from further abuse or neglect.

Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage did not have another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?

The overall percentage for the State has remained in the 92-93 percent range since FFY 2007 as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

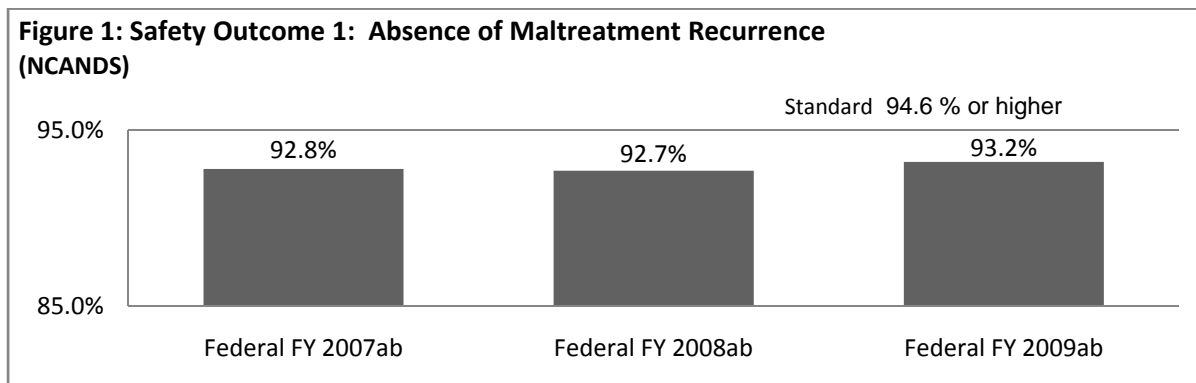


Figure 1: Safety Outcome 1: Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence

The percentage of children who did not have another substantiated child abuse or neglect referral within 6 months decreased slightly from FFY 2007 and FFY 2008. In FFY 2009, California saw an improvement to 93.2% (please note the standard is 94.6% or higher).

Overall, California has made slight progress on Safety Outcome 1: Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence. The population discussed in this narrative encompasses all children who were victims of substantiated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, who did not experience an episode of subsequent abuse/neglect within a six month period.

Since FFY 1998/99 when 89.9 percent of children did not suffer subsequent maltreatment within a 6-month period, the data shows a steady increase in this measure. Grouping the data by age ranges shows that there are only minute differences in the rate of recurrence of maltreatment for children in the various age ranges. Although the Federal standard of 94.6 percent or higher has not yet been met, the data show that California is heading in a positive direction.

While the specific reason California has improved in this measure overall cannot be determined, some improvements that have likely contributed to the increase are:

- Statewide implementation of Standardized Safety and Risk Assessment Tools,
- The Eleven-County Pilot Project, which tested the effectiveness of three strategies:
 - Standardized Safety Assessment System
 - DR
 - Permanency and Youth Transition

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The Standardized Safety Assessment System and Differential Response programs are strategies that the CDSS considers key elements in reducing the recurrence of maltreatment by ensuring that families are thoroughly and effectively assessed – both at initial intake and at key points during the life of a case – and appropriate services are provided to families to keep children safe. California’s 2009 Program Improvement Plan (PIP) lists “strengthening implementation of the Statewide Safety Assessment System” as one of the broad strategies to ensure families are systematically assessed for safety, risks and needs throughout the life of a case. In addition, the PIP identifies the statewide implementation of Differential Response (contingent on resource availability) as an Action Step and Benchmark.

The Eleven-County Pilot Project: To test the effectiveness of three strategies – Standardized Safety Assessment, Differential Response, and Permanency and Youth Transition – eleven counties have been participating in a pilot program since 2003. To analyze the progress in the pilot counties, the CDSS contracted with The Results Group, an organizational consulting firm, who documented their findings in the report, the Eleven-County Pilot Project Evaluation Final Report.

The Eleven-County Pilot Project was intended to achieve fundamental system change by creating a more collaborative environment for agencies, community partners and families served by the child welfare system. The key findings and observations in the final report are:

- The pilot strategies are driving fundamental system improvement.
- The pilot counties have reduced the number of children in care.
- The pilot strategies lead to greater permanency.
- The pilot strategies maintain child safety.
- The pilot strategies enhance well-being.

The full report was completed by the contractor in March 2010 and is posted on the Children and Family Services Division webpage at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov> under the “Featured Links” section.

The Eleven-County Pilot Project Evaluation Final Report analyzed data in the category “No Recurrence of Maltreatment” for calendar years 2002 through June of 2008. The data shows that both pilot counties and non-pilot counties have made gains on this indicator, with the pilot counties showing a slightly greater improvement. Pilot counties improved by 2.9 percent, while non-pilot counties improved by 2.2 percent. In the report (p. 41) social workers reported that components of the entire pilot project (Standardized Safety Assessment, Differential Response, and Permanency and Youth Transition) have contributed to reducing recurrence of maltreatment. The report also indicates that better assessments are made possible by the California Standardized Safety Assessment System and in particular, the ability to separate risk and safety factors.

California’s Standardized Safety, Risk and Needs Assessment System

Since June 30, 2007, all 58 California counties have been using one of two standardized safety and risk assessment tools – Structured Decision Making (SDM) or the Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT). More information regarding the tools can be found on pages 76-78 of

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the 2010-2014 CFSP. Each safety and risk assessment tool provides specific assessments for use at critical points in the life of a child welfare case. To assist counties in promoting consistent use of the tool, advanced SDM training modules have been developed and made available to county child welfare supervisors.

The Eleven-County Pilot Project Evaluation Final Report indicates that in the pilot counties, child welfare workers were more likely to use the tool at the “front end” of the child welfare process (i.e., the initial assessment), and less likely to complete the tool during later phases of the process. Prior to this information coming to light in the report, the CDSS had issued an ACL 09-31 in August 2009 reminding county child welfare agencies of the importance of using the tool to complete assessments throughout the life of a child welfare case.

Differential Response (DR)

DR is one of the key strategies underway to improve California’s child welfare system. DR is an intake and service delivery structure that allows a CWS agency to respond in a more flexible manner to reports of child abuse or neglect. In California, there are three paths in the DR approach:

- Path #1, the Community Response path is selected when a family is referred to CWS for child maltreatment but as a result of the hotline/pre-contact assessment, the allegations do not meet statutory definitions of abuse or neglect. In this path, the family is referred to community-based services intended to reduce future harm.
- Path #2, the CWS and Agency Partners Response, involves families in which the children are at low to moderate risk of abuse or neglect. Safety factors may be low, but risk is present. Ideally, a Path 2 response includes both CWS and appropriate community partner staff.
- Path #3, the more traditional CWS response, is used when the initial assessment indicates that the child is not safe.

Currently, 42 California counties have implemented DR to some degree. To address the need for the consistent implementation of DR throughout the state, a workgroup collaborative that included the eleven pilot counties, the CDSS and other stakeholders drafted *The Child Welfare Improvement Activities: Differential Response Guidelines and Resources for Implementation* (DR guidelines). This guide was distributed to counties via ACIN I-49-10 on June 29, 2010, and is posted on the CFSD webpage at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov>.

The California Wraparound Program

The CPFS Branch has administrative authority for the California Wraparound Program pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code, section 18250 (SB 163, Chapter 759, Statutes of 1997). According to the 2010-14 CFSP (page 30), our Program Improvement Plan goal was to increase the available slots to 3,545. For the state FY 09/10, California has exceeded that goal and currently has 4,251 available slots.

The number of children being served with the Wraparound program is not limited by CDSS. It is based on the county and/or providers capacity to serve the target population. The Wraparound program has a specific target population: 1) Wards or dependents who are at risk

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of placement in a group home with a rate classification level (RCL) of 10 or higher, 2) a child who would be voluntarily placed in out-of-home care pursuant to Section 26.5 of the Government Code, 3) a child who is currently placed in a group home with a RCL of 10 or higher, 4) A child who is receiving AAP and is currently or at risk of placement in out-of-home care in a group home with an RCL of 10 or higher.

Since the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) expansion of the Wraparound Program continues. Counties that choose to implement the Wraparound Program are eligible to receive funding through the Community Services and Supports component of the MHSA. Wraparound programs have increased from 29 counties in SFY 2005/06 to 46 counties as of SFY 2009/10. Five additional counties began the planning stage for establishing an active wraparound program starting in the year 2009, including Imperial, Lake, Sierra, Tuolumne and Yuba counties.

The CDSS and its partners recently hosted the Sixth California Wraparound Institute held in Anaheim, CA in June 2010. The Institute hosted approximately 1,000 attendees which included individuals throughout California, as well as providers from other states and Canada. Over 75 workshops were conducted, which provided information on practical strategies for improving Wraparound Programs.

The CDSS anticipates both challenges and opportunities for potential growth of Wraparound Programs in various counties due to the Alliance v. Allenby lawsuit, which increased RCL rates by 32 percent. The increase may present an unintended incentive to deter children from group home placement to other community based in home services thereby increasing Wraparound Programs throughout California. The increased costs are now estimated to be between \$2,085 to \$8,835 for a group home placement. This funding can be redirected to enhance Wraparound Programs to support children with reunifying with families and establishing permanency, thus reducing reliance on out-of-home care. Please see ACL 10-15 and 10-15E, clarifying the adjustment of the RCL system.

Safety Considerations in the California Wraparound Program

Wraparound is a promising program for positively impacting California's safety outcomes for Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence and Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care. Wraparound practices involve working together as a team, including the child and family, professionals, and others chosen by the family to develop an individualized service plan to address the family's needs and goals. These teams are referred to as The Child and Family Team (CFT). The individualized plans specifically include safety plans that address immediate safety factors as well as high and low risk factors. Treatment plans are developed through on-going CFT meetings, which increase family engagement in service utilization. Many of these services include mental health and AOD services designed to meet the needs of the children and/or parents. The intensive planning with the biological family, foster family and/or group home providers further bridges the gaps in services that may lead to additional abuse or neglect for children in care.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Strategic Management Resource Management Division, Wraparound 2009 Annual Report

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(<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/aboutus/wraparound.html>) evaluated the effectiveness of their Wraparound Program in relation to child safety. Extracted from the report, the following data are based on the 34 community-based Los Angeles County provider agencies across three Referral Departments (DCFS, Probation and DMH) who were providing Wraparound services to 2,206 children and their families during the Fiscal Year 2008-2009. They used the following two Outcome Indicators:

- 90 percent of children who are receiving Wraparound do not have another substantiated allegation of abuse/neglect while receiving Wraparound.
- 94 percent of children who are receiving Wraparound do not have another substantiated allegation within one (1) year after graduating from Wraparound.

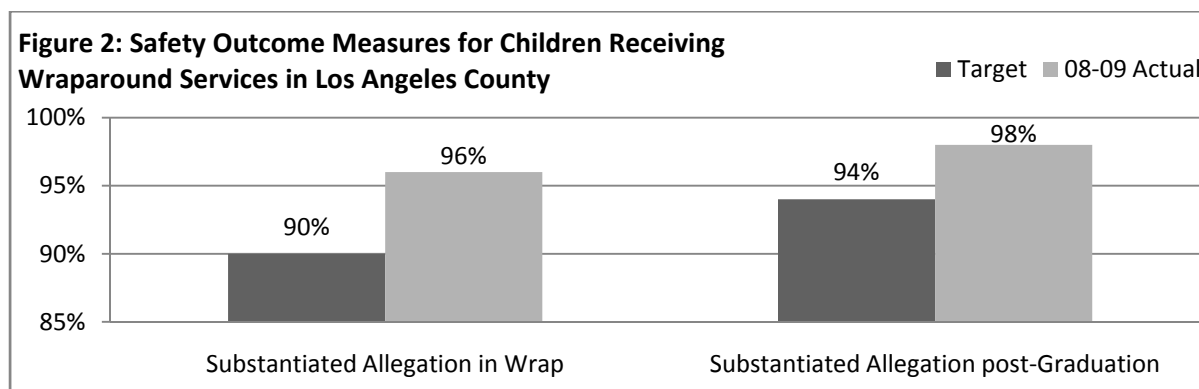


Figure 2: Safety Outcome Measures for children and their families receiving Wraparound services from thirty-four contracted agencies across three referral departments (DCFS, Probation, and DMH) in Los Angeles County during the 2008-2009 State Fiscal Year.

Both safety performance measures exceeded their targets in the past SFY 08/09. These results point to Wraparound's overall success providing families with effective coping skills which lead to a decrease in the number of substantiated allegations of child abuse and/or neglect (page 21 and 22 of Los Angeles County Wraparound 2009 Annual Report referenced above).

Safety Outcome 2 – Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?

The overall percentage for the State has remained in the 99.7 range since FFY 2007 as illustrated in Figure 3 below (this is above the standard).

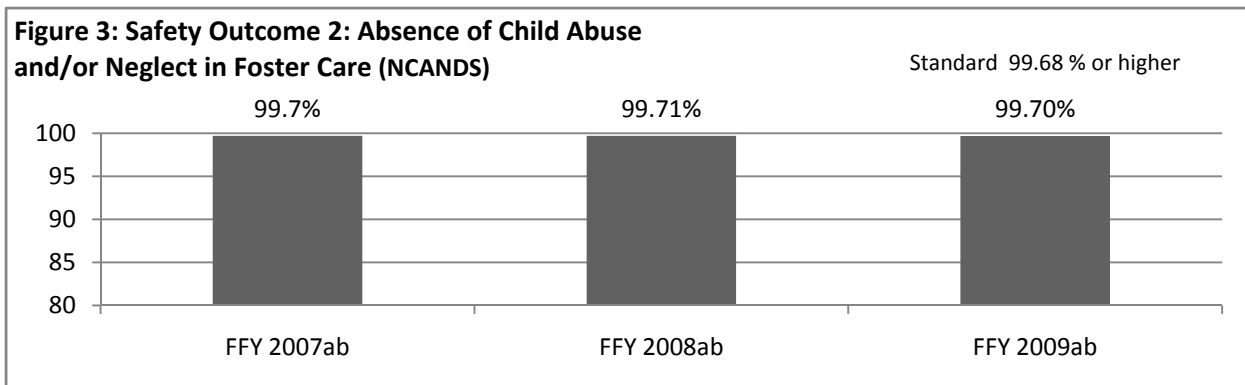


Figure 3: Safety Outcome 2: Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

The percentage has remained mostly unchanged, with a slight increase between FFY 2007 and FFY 2008 (please note for FFY 2009, the percentage is pending an updated NCANDS total, unavailable until August 2010)

California has exceeded the federal standard for the measure Safety Outcome 2: Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care for the FFY 2007 and 2008. Data for FFY 2009 is not yet available. The population discussed in this narrative is limited to children who are dependents and are in out-of-home placements.

Even though the federal standard has been met, California continues to seek improvement to this measure. Several California counties are testing the effectiveness of a Substitute Care Provider Module that is now available as part of the SDM safety and risk assessment system. This tool was designed to use when determining whether or not any safety threats exist in a potential placement in a Foster, Relative, Non-Related Extended Family Member, Foster Family Agency or Small Family home. Currently in use in limited areas until a validation study is conducted, the tool provides a checklist of issues to consider when a social worker is placing a child with a particular substitute care provider (SCP), or when reassessing that placement. The tool was designed to consider the capacity of the SCP to provide the child with a safe, appropriate environment for a dependent child.

PERMANENCY

Permanency Composite 1 - Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

The CDSS has the responsibility to ensure that children are reunified in a timely and permanent manner as measured through: Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification. The composite addresses issues relevant to child welfare, outcome 4: reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry. The CDSS considers children as discharged from foster care to reunification if the reason for discharge reported to AFCARS is either "reunification with parent or primary caretaker" or "living with other relative." Scores from FFY 2007 to FFY 2009 are illustrated in Figure 4 below.

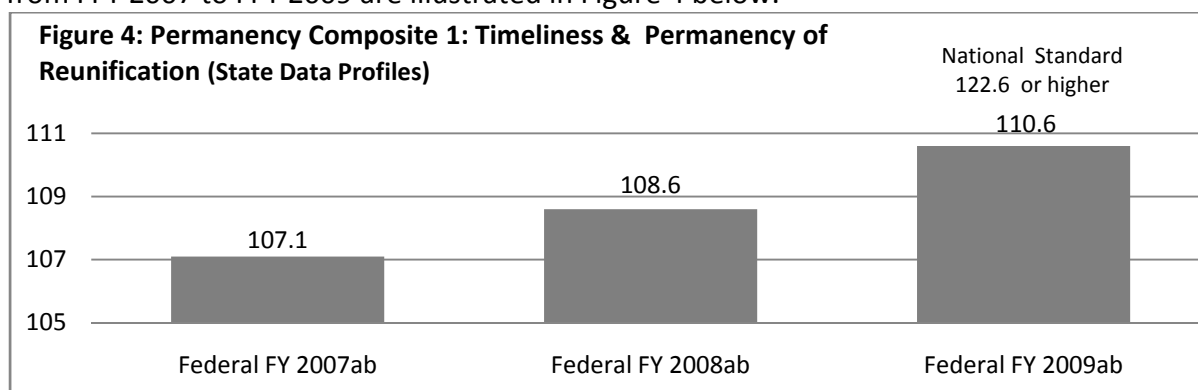


Figure 4: Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness & Permanency Reunification

The score has steadily increased from FFY 2007 to FFY 2009 (please note the overall composite is measured as a score, the four individual measures are measured in percentages).

Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification is made up of four (4) different measures: C1-1, C1-3 and C1-4 that are captured in percentages and C1-2 captured in median number of months. A consistent finding from the data below is that exits to reunification in less than 12 months has been relatively stable (although increased from last year) and there has been a drop in the median length of stay for those who exited reunification. With respect to permanency, we have been relatively stable in the number of foster care re-entries.

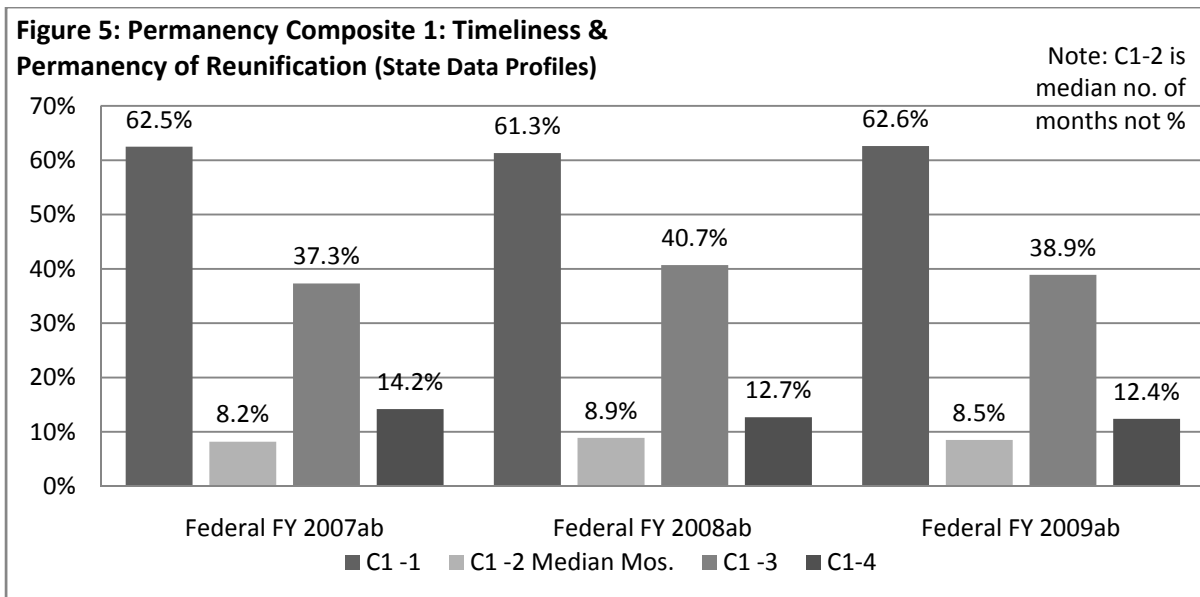


Figure 5: Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness & Permanency of Reunification

- C1 -1: Exits to reunification in less than 12 mos.
- C1 -2: Exits to reunification, median stay (measured in mos.)
- C1 -3: Entry cohort reunification in <12 mos.
- C1 -4: Re-entries to foster care in less than 12 mos.

Overall, California has made progress on the measure of Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification. Please note that the data also includes probation youth but these data are limited to foster care children in the juvenile justice system that are supervised by probation who are Title IV-E eligible and for whom Title IV-E payments are made. Steady increases in the percentage of children exiting to reunification in less than 12 months can be seen beginning with data from FFY 1998/99 which shows that 49.4 percent of children in foster care reunified with their families in less than 12 months with the percentage of children increasing in California in subsequent years and peaking in FFY 2006/07 at 64 percent. This percentage has, for the most part, stayed the same during the last two FFYs but showed a slight decline. Likewise, the median length of stay of children remaining in reunification has declined steadily from FFY 1999/00, from a median of 13.2 months until FFY 2006/07, with a median of 7.9 months. This number has been fairly stable for the last two FFYs.

The limitation of such data measurements is that it does not take into consideration the special circumstances of some parents involved in the reunification process. California legislation passed in 2009 increased the family reunification time frame for incarcerated parents, parents in drug rehabilitation and mental health institutions. The intent of this legislation is to ensure that birth parents in these targeted populations receive the court mandated services in order to complete their family reunification case plans and have enough time to do so and can show that they can provide a safe and healthy environment for their children once they are released from these types of facilities. Many times court mandated family reunification services are difficult to obtain while parents are in these types of institutions. It is too soon to say how this

newly implemented legislation will impact California's performance in this measure in the future.

While the specific reason California has improved in this measure overall has cannot be determined, California has been adopting several practices that may have had an impact on this measure or may have an impact on this measure in future years:

- The Family to Family Initiative (F2F). The F2F Initiative is discussed throughout this report. For additional information, please refer to p. 79 of the CFSP and page 165 of the updated 2010 Child and Family Services Training Plan located in this report. The basic principles of the program are outlined below.
- Efforts to engage children, youth and families in placement decision and case planning:
 - Family to Family – The Family to Family Initiative consists of five core strategies:
 1. Recruitment, development, and support of resource families,
 2. Building community partnerships,
 3. Team Decision-making,
 4. Self-evaluation, and
 5. California Connected by 25 Initiative (CC25).
 - There are also several emerging strategies that address additional areas needing improvement that are closely linked to the five core strategies. They are:
 1. Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality,
 2. Immigration and child welfare,
 3. Improving Youth Engagement,
 4. Improving Parent Engagement,
 5. Domestic violence and child welfare, and
 6. Children with incarcerated parents.

The Family to Family Initiative is in various phases of implementation throughout the state of California. There are currently 25 counties voluntarily participating in the Family to Family (F2F) Initiative, which capture roughly 86 percent of the foster children in care. The California F2F has been comprised of a partnership between the CDSS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

The Evaluation of the Anchor-Site Phase of Family to Family, 2010, reported results using both a site-level and child-level analysis. Results of the analysis revealed that due to the fact that individual county sites in California phased the implementation of F2F in different ways, the results across sites were ambiguous and inconclusive. However, results of the child-level analysis showed improved outcomes for children entering foster care by maintaining family connections. Success in this outcome was accomplished by keeping siblings together, placing children with kinship caregivers, or placing children in their neighborhoods of origin. In addition, the child-level analysis revealed that the practice of F2F increased the likelihood of reunification within twelve months. These positive outcomes were consistent in both California sites and sites outside of California.

- Improvements made to social worker and probation officer core curriculum training on concurrent planning, permanency, and kinship guardianship/adoption.

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- Increased focus on TDM conferences especially at the beginning of the child welfare case. TDM conferencing is a core practice in the F2F Initiative. Information from the 11 County Pilot Project Evaluation Report reported that the practice was implemented in all of the 11 counties that participated in the 11 county evaluation pilot project but that the counties varied in when they utilized the practice over the time period of an individual case. However, results of the analysis recommended that conducting TDMs at the time of when a placement was at imminent risk of disrupting or when an emergency placement had to be determined were considered the most cost effective times that a TDM could have the most impact on a case. Holding TDMs at the beginning of the child welfare case mitigated safety risks and kept children out of the system and supplied resources and information at the case's inception to families providing them with a better foundation to succeed in their reunification efforts. Additional efforts are being made in California to implement training of TDM practices in counties that have not been trained on TDM activities in the past. However, these efforts are at the beginning stages and will not be fully realized until December 2011.
- Aspects of the quality of the social worker visits have been determined, and new regulations are in process which may influence future outcomes on this measure.

Considerations for Timely Reunification in the California Wraparound Program

The Wraparound planning process facilitates timely reunification for children and their families. Children who are in out of home placement or at risk of out of home placement are in need of immediate and intensive services that ameliorate the issues that brought them into the system. Wraparound links families to services tailored to their family needs such as regular parent and family visits, mental health services and the rebuilding of a family connection with respect and trust. In addition, the CFTs can assess for any parental ambivalence, which can be a barrier to reunification.

Wraparound counties tend to identify Wraparound as a strategy not only to reduce out of home placement but to limit the time in residential care, recognizing that children should not be placed in residential care longer than necessary. Wraparound is viewed as less restrictive and utilizes training tools, formal and informal strategies, which teach and train children and families to become self-sufficient. In 2003, President George W. Bush released *New Freedom Commission on Mental Health – Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America* which highlights the Wraparound program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The report concludes that individualized services provided to children produced better clinical results, reduced delinquency, and resulted in fewer hospitalizations, while remaining cost-effective.

Dependency Drug Courts

Extensive research in California and in other states has demonstrated that dependency drug courts significantly improve permanency outcomes for children and youth whose removal was attributed to parental substance abuse. A team from The CDSS, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP) and the AOC has completed structured site visits to all of the DADP funded dependency drug courts and has begun to visit the Administrative Office of the Courts funded courts. The environmental scan, to be completed by July 2010, has revealed a wide

variety of collaborative court methodologies and styles. In some courts, different court officers hear the dependency and drug court actions. In others, one court officer hears both. Counties report that their participant capacity is 10 percent of the estimated number of parents who would be appropriate for a dependency drug court. Frequently cited barriers included inadequate funding and local commitment, a lack of drug treatment services, judicial rotations, and transportation for parents to court and to services.

Each of the 25 courts evaluated in the environmental scan reported attempts to establish case and process measurement systems. None of these systems were deemed adequate in determining and reporting aggregated case outcomes, costs and cost avoidances. All courts reported that state-level technical assistance and support would be necessary, particularly in light of the need for aggregation of county data into a state-level evaluation of collaborative justice practice application in the dependency system. The collaborative justice strategic plan will include practice recommendations for data acquisition and reporting. The strategic plan will focus on this and other measures of child and family safety, permanency and well-being.

In the next eighteen months, this plan will be completed and subsequently submitted to the appropriate policy and budgets committees of the California Legislature.

Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness to Adoption

The CDSS has the responsibility to ensure that children are adopted in a timely manner as measured through: Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoption. This composite addresses National Child Welfare, Outcome 5: Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption. Scores from FFY 2007 to FFY 2009 are illustrated in Figure 6 below.

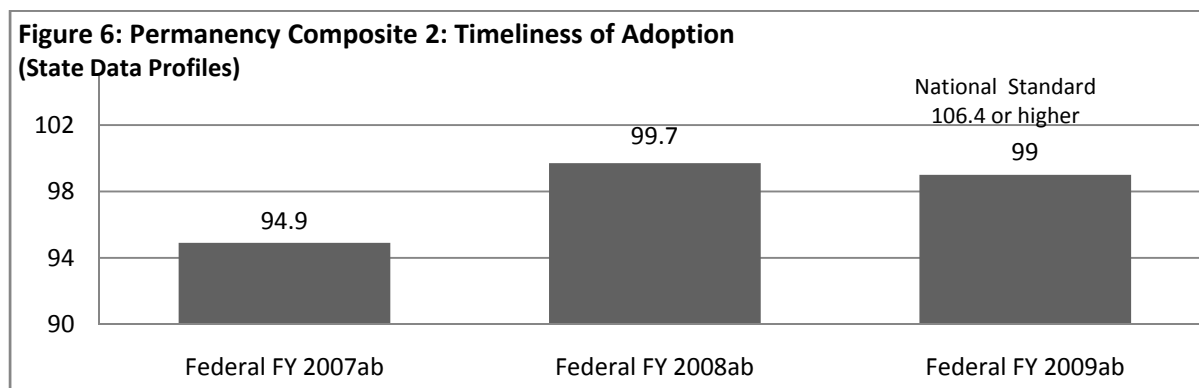


Figure 6: Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoption

The score increased from FFY 2007 to FFY 2008, then suffered a slight decrease in FFY 2009 (please note the overall composite is measured as a score, the five individual measures are measured in percentages).

Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoption is made up of five (5) different measures: C2-1, C2-3, C2-4 and C2-5 that are captured in percentages and C2-2 captured in median number of months. Our composite score had a sharp increase from 2007 to 2008, but a decline from 2008 to 2009. Overall, this represents a four percent improvement since FFY 2007.

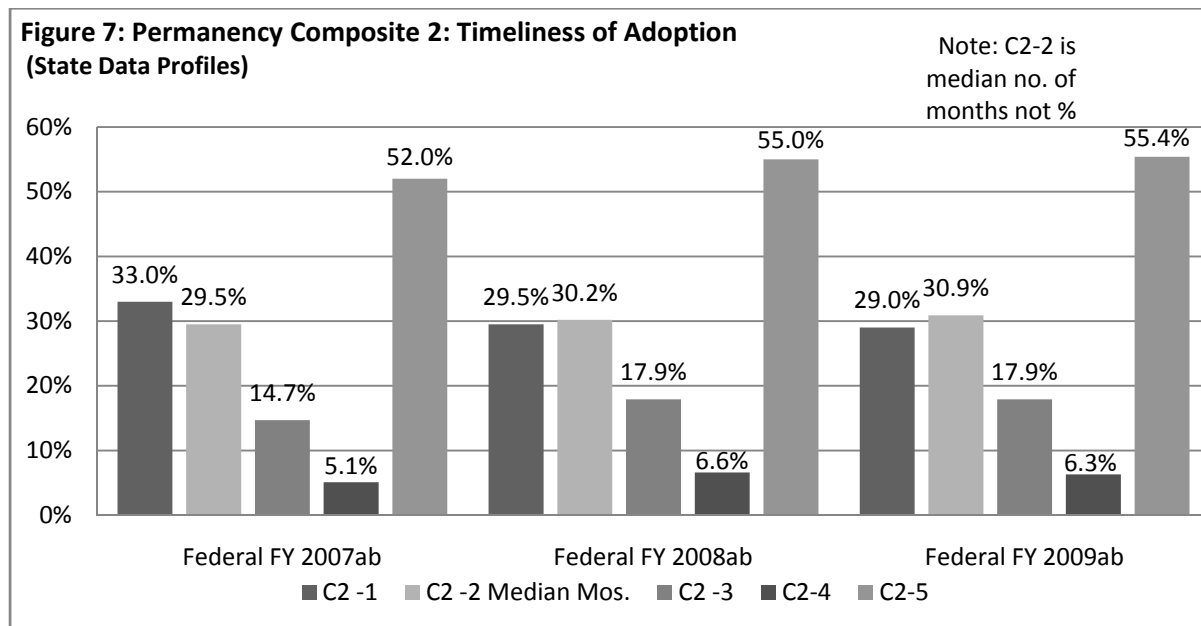


Figure 7: Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoption

C2 -1: Exits to adoption in less than 24 mos.

C2 -2: Exits to adoption, median length of stay (measured in mos.)

C2 -3: Children in care 17+ mos., adopted by the end of the year.

C2 -4: Children in care 17+ mos. achieving legal freedom w/in 6 mos.

C2 -5: Legally free children adopted in less than 12 mos.

California's performance on this measure has shown some improvement. The population discussed in this narrative is limited to children in the dependency system. Very few youth supervised by probation are adopted therefore they are not discussed here. The median length of stay of foster children exiting to adoption has declined 20 percent since peaking at 39 months in FFY 2001. California has shown a steady increase in the percentage of children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year, who were then adopted within 12 months. In FFY 1999, the percentage of children counted in this category was 6.8 percent. This number steadily improved to 19.7 percent in FFY 2009. A more prominent improvement in this measurement can be seen when this data is grouped by the age of the child. In FFY 1999, 12.7 percent of foster care children between the ages of 0 to 8 in this category grew to 44.3 percent in FFY 2009. In contrast, in FFY 2009, data shows that there were 2 percent of foster care children between the ages of 9 to 17 in this category which slowly grew to 6.9 percent in FFY 2009. A higher percentage of children placed with kin appear in this category in comparison to children placed in foster homes and FFA homes.

One limitation in this measurement is that it focuses only on one permanency option, adoption. However, the past several years has shown a shift toward the focus of other permanency options for foster care children, particularly older youth, including, but not limited to, adoption.

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Other permanency options for youth include guardianship with non-relatives or with non-related extended family members (NRFEMS), kinship guardianship, making a permanency connection with another adult, and in some cases, reunification with a birth parent after parental rights have been terminated or after a prolonged stay in foster care. The low percentage of older foster children or youth being adopted that were in care for 17 continuous months (or longer on the first day of the year, who were then adopted within 12 months) is not a reflection of how many of these children exited out of the child welfare system through other permanency options.

While it is not possible to determine for certain reasons the steady increases in these percentages, California has made improvements that have likely affected this measure for specific groups of children in foster care.

- Kinship Support Services Program - The KSSP is a collaboration between a county, and a private, non-profit organization to provide services to kinship caregivers and the children in their care. General training is presented to participating counties at the regional conferences and may include workshops such as how to assist caregivers obtain legal guardianship, how to write grants to generate additional funds or how to establish support groups for care providers. The KSSP contractor also provides training which is county specific and is tailored to the needs of the particular KSSP site based on a work plan established by the contractor and the county. These trainings focus on various subjects ranging from instruction on using the Kin database to how to reach those in need of services. Twenty California counties currently operate a local KSSP; they are: Alameda, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura.
- Placing an emphasis on providing permanency for younger children as early as possible and focus on improving concurrent planning has also been a priority for California. Efforts in this area have centered on updating the social worker and probation officer core curriculum to improve attention to permanency goals and strategies.
- Placing an emphasis on increasing permanency for older youth has also been a priority for California in the past several years. These activities include the California Permanency for Youth Project (CPYP) (page 51) and the Older Youth Adoption Pilot Project (OYA) (page 52).
- The CDSS, working with California tribes, continues to provide technical assistance to county child welfare adoption agencies, private adoption agencies and the CDSS Adoption District Offices on the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 1325, which will become effective July 1, 2010. AB 1325, which passed in 2009, provides an additional permanency option in the form of Tribal Customary Adoption (TCA) for ICWA eligible dependent children in the State. TCA allows for an ICWA eligible child to be “adopted” with the permission of the child’s tribe by a relative of the child or a member of the child’s tribe without termination of parental rights, while still being eligible to receive adoption assistance payments. TPR has been a process contrary to cultural tradition of many tribes. On March 24, 2010, the CDSS issued ACIN No. I-10-17 to counties, private adoption agencies, the CDSS Adoption District Offices and Tribal IV-E eligible tribes on TCA. Further instructions, forms and regulations will be forthcoming.

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Adoption Incentive Payments

In SFY 2009/10, California did not spend any Adoption Incentive funds. However, California has received \$1.5 million, which will be appropriated in the next state fiscal year and will be allocated to counties and the state District Offices (DOs). As a result of legislation enacted in 2009, the incentive funds will be given to the 42 counties that had a net improvement in legal permanency outcomes for older youth. These funds will be used to improve legal permanency outcomes for children age nine and older. Each county or District Office will determine how to use their allocated funds to improve permanency outcomes.

The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 665, Torrico (Chapter 250, filed with Secretary of State on October 11, 2009) to ensure that the state will reinvest federal adoption incentive payments received through the implementation of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 into the child welfare system. This is to provide legal permanency outcomes for older children nine years and above, including, but not limited to adoption, guardianship, and reunification of children whose reunification services were previously terminated. AB 665 is to encourage counties to put emphasis on permanency for older children such as adoption, guardianship and a second chance reunification for youth who previously had reunification services terminated. Counties (who had an increase in permanency placements in SFY 2009) and CDSS DOs will receive monetary incentive payments for all three types of legal permanence. The incentive payments will be distributed to counties and CDSS DO's, when it acts as an adoption agency for a county, to fund activities to improve legal permanency outcomes for foster youth ages nine or older. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Post adoption services to avert adoption disruptions;
- Preparing youth for permanency by resolving barriers to adoption;
- Intensive family finding to locate relatives willing to make lifelong commitments to youth, including adoption and guardianship;
- Support to ensure successful permanency options for older foster youth;
- Many other services and supports to ensure successful permanency options for older foster youth;
- Recruitment of adoptive parents who are committed to keeping sibling groups together;
- Reunification with family members whose services were previously terminated.

Permanency Composite 3 - Permanency for Children & Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

The CDSS has the responsibility to ensure that children and youth in foster care are in permanent placements as measured through: Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time. The composite addresses issues relevant to National Child Welfare Outcome 3: Increased Permanency for Children in Foster Care. Scores from FFY 2007 to FFY 2009 are illustrated in Figure 8 below.

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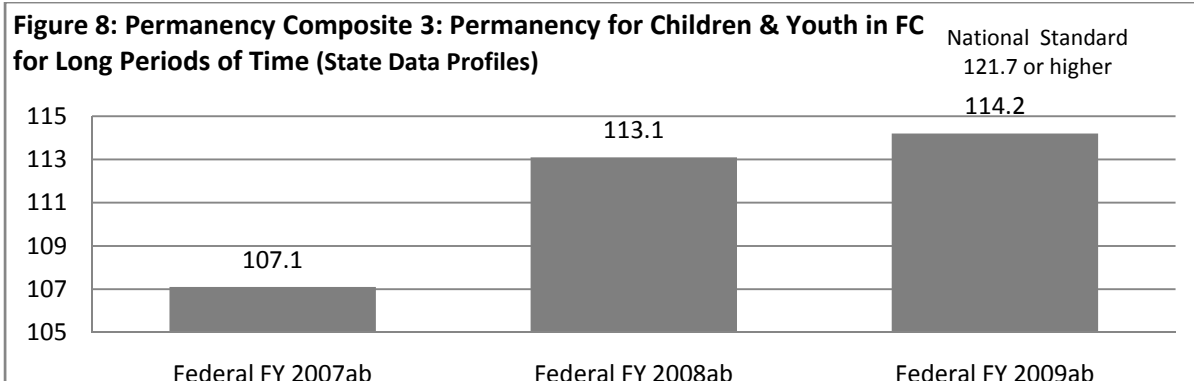


Figure 8: Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time. There was a large increase in the score from FFY 2007 to FFY 2008. The score underwent another slight increase between FFY 2008 and FFY 2009 (please note the overall composite is measured as a score, the three individual measures are measured in percentages).

Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time is made up of three (3) different measures (C3-1, C3-2 and C3-3) that are captured in percentages. The composite data show a sharp increase in performance between 2007 and 2008 followed by a slight increase from 2008 to 2009. This represents a 7 percent improvement overall. An examination of the individual components suggests that the area of greatest improvement has been in the area of exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday (C3-1).

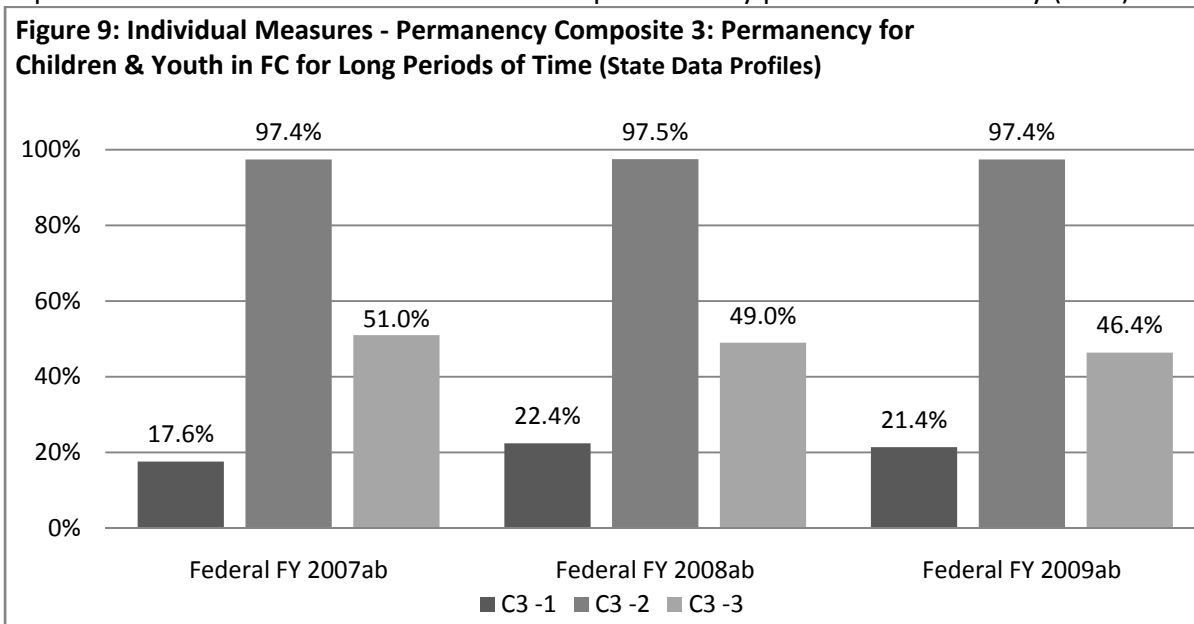


Figure 9: Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children & Youth in FC for Long Periods of Time Individual Measures

C3 -1 Exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care for 24+ mos.

C3 -2: Exits to permanency for children w/TPR

C3 -3: Children emancipated who were in FC for 3 yrs or more.

California has made improvement in this permanency component. The first individual measure- the percentage of foster care children exiting to permanency prior to their 18th birthday who were in care for 24 months or more-shows differences in improvements when broken down by

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age. For foster care children between the ages of 0-8 in FFY 2000, performance was at 33.3 percent and increased to 48.8 percent in FFY 2009, a 47 percent improvement. Progress in this measure for older children between the ages of 9-17 is not as prominent.

Performance for children who emancipated and who were in foster care for three years or more peaked in FFY 2002 at 67.4 percent; and has for the most part steadily declined in FFY 2008/2009 at 60.3 percent. In this measure, fewer children who emancipate after having been in care for more than three years is preferable. Therefore, California has improved performance by 12 percent during that period. California's improvement in finding younger children permanent homes when in foster care for two years or more, appears to have made an impact on lowering the number of children who emancipate, who were in foster care for three years or more.

Data also shows a higher percentage of children placed with kin exiting to permanency prior to their 18th birthday who were in care for two years or longer. This number was at its highest in FFY 2008 (30.4 percent) and has declined only slightly in FFY 2009. In comparison, the percent of children exiting from foster family homes and FFA certified homes has remained largely stable (at approximately 16 percent) from FFY 2000 to FFY 2009.

While it is not possible to attribute improvements to any single effort, improving permanence for all children has been a focus in California for some time. Some of the activities California has been working on to improve in the area include:

- Family to Family. The Family to Family Initiative is discussed throughout this report, for further information, please refer to page 79 of the CFSP and page 165 of the updated 2010 Child and Family Services Training Plan located in this report.
- KSSP. Please see page 48 for a description and page 151 for further information.
- OYA. Please see page 52 for further information on this program.
- Additional funding in adoption.

California Permanency for Youth Project (CPYP)

As of January 1, 2010, the CPYP merged with the Seneca Center, a community based organization which provides mental health treatment and other supportive services to children and families. At this time, they are working to create a new program that will combine the effective elements of CPYP with the services offered at the Seneca Center.

CPYP's objectives were to:

- Increase awareness among the child welfare agencies and staff, legislators and judicial officers in the state, of the urgent need that older children and youth have for permanency.
- Influence public policy and administrative practices so that they promote permanency.
- Assist interested California county child welfare agencies and their community partners to implement effective practices to achieve permanency for older children and youth.

Because the transition to Seneca Center just occurred in January 2010, it is unclear what the expanded mission will be for the new program or when the new program will roll out.

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Although, CPYP is no longer in operation, it was an important program that provided technical assistance to 20 California county/regional child welfare agencies, published several documents related to permanency for youth in foster care and established the Emancipated Youth Connections Project Program Model, which assists emancipated foster youth in gathering information about their personal/familial histories. These services assisted public child welfare agencies to achieve permanency for older youth in foster care. The CPYP Organizational Development Guide for Youth Permanency can be located online at <http://www.cpy.org/Files/OrgDevelopmentGuide.pdf>.

Older Youth Adoptions Pilot Project (OYA)

The OYA Project was authorized by AB 1808 (statutes of 2006). The purpose of the pilot project was to provide pre-adoption and post-adoption services to ensure the successful adoption of children and youth who were in foster care 18 months or more, were at least nine years of age, and were placed in an unrelated foster home or in a group home. AB 1808 specified that Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties and the CDSS District Office (DO) in Sacramento would be included in the OYA Pilot Project. Two additional counties, Alameda and Kern Counties, were added to the OYA Pilot project through an application process.

The DO became operational in January 1, 2007. Due to the selection process and the need to establish individual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each county, the funds were not accessible to the counties until June of 2007. The end date for the pilot project is June 30, 2010.

Participating OYA pilot programs implemented various strategies to promote permanency for older youth in care. These include: training for foster and adoptive families, development of assessment tools to help identify factors that could jeopardize the success of a permanent placement, stabilization services for youth in congregate care to prepare them for placement with a family, pre- and post-placement psychiatric support services for foster youth and their prospective families, proactive family finding efforts to identify and contact relatives who might be willing to provide a permanent home for children in foster care, and outreach to recruit foster and adoptive homes.

All of the pilot projects are required to submit a final report by February of 2011 analyzing effects of their pilot, including the services their pilot provided and the extent to which adoptions increased for the targeted population.

Although the OYA pilot seeks to increase permanency in a narrow sense since it only sought to increase adoptions and on a smaller scale, serving only four counties and the DO in Sacramento, the results of the pilot will be shared with the legislature and other counties, so the entire state can benefit from the success of the OYA pilot and lessons learned.

The objectives of the OYA pilot target Composite numbers 3-1 and 3-2. The OYA pilot seeks to identify effective service methods that lead to adoption of youth prior to their 18th birthday and increase exits to permanency for the target population who have already experienced termination of parental rights. At this point, it is unclear which of the services provided by the counties and the DO had the greatest correlations with adoptions, but the data should be forthcoming within the next year.

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Permanency Composite 4 - Placement Stability

The CDSS has the responsibility to ensure that children are in stable placements while they are in foster care. Placement stability is addressed through item XII: Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability as reported in the state data profile. For the purpose of the analysis in this report, if a child has two or fewer placement settings in a single foster care episode, this is considered to be evidence of placement stability. The overall placement stability for the State has remained in the 92 score range since FFY 2007 as illustrated in Figure 10 below.

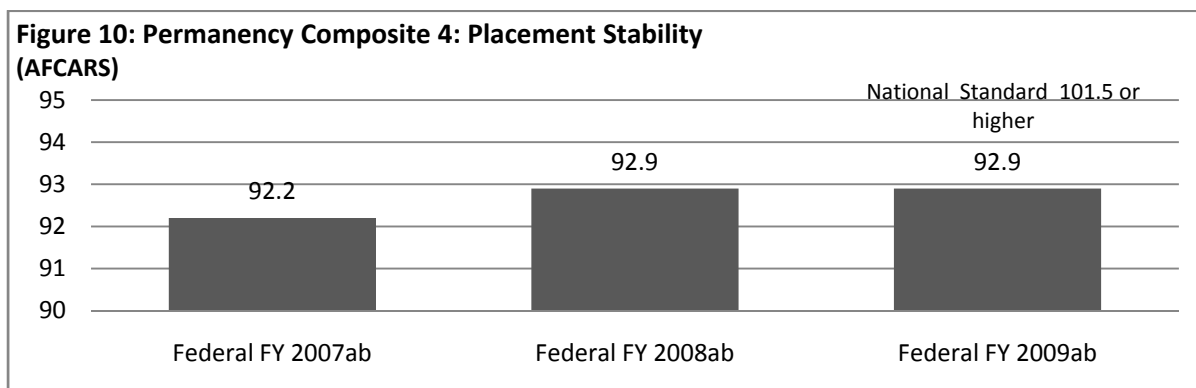


Figure 10: Permanency Composite 4 – Placement Stability

The score increased slightly from FFY 2007 to FFY 2008, then suffered a slight decrease in the 12 month period ending March 2009. In FFY 2009 the State is back to the 2008 FFY score of 92.9 (please note the overall composite is measured as a score, the three individual measures are measured in percentages).

Placement Composite 4: Placement Stability is made up of three (3) different measures (C4-1, C4-2 and C4-3) that are captured in percentages. A consistent finding is that, although California is fairly successful in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months, the percentage of children who have placement stability declines considerably the longer the children are in foster care. The breakdown is illustrated in Figure 11 below.

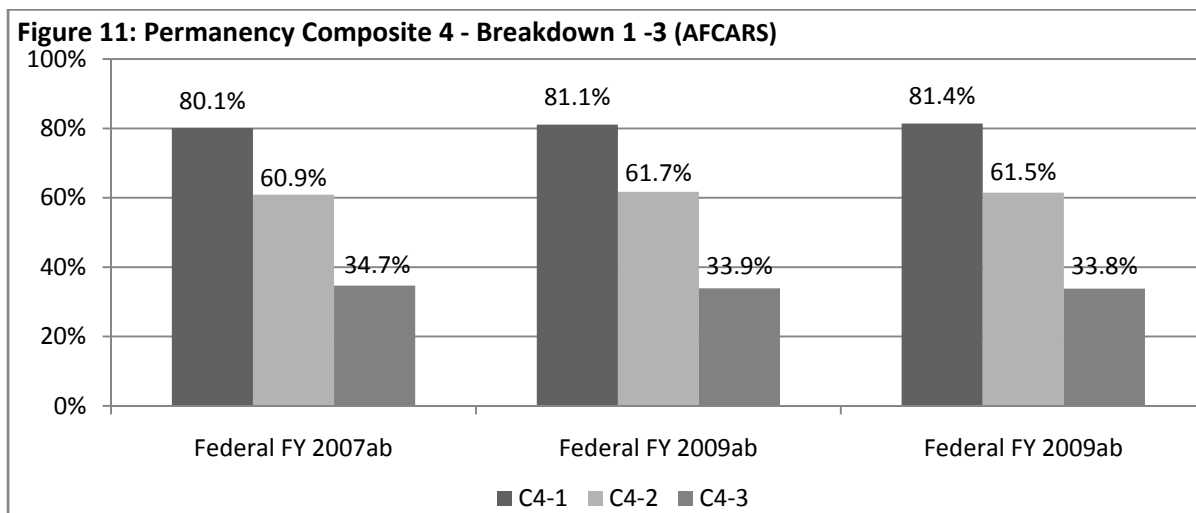


Figure 11: Permanency Composite 4 - Breakdown 1 - 3

C4 -1: Two or fewer placement settings for children in care less than 12 mos.

C4 -2: Two or fewer placement settings for children in care 12 to 24 mos.

C4 -3: Two or fewer placement settings for children in care 24 + mos.

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California has made progress on this placement stability measure overall, however for children who have been in care the longest, progress seems to have declined. While the flaws in this particular measure have been illuminated by national experts, some useful information can be gained by looking at the population of children who have been in care for 24 months or more. The table below details this population with three or more placements by placement type, and the changes that occurred between FFY 2004 and 2009. During that time, the population of children who have been in care for 24 month or more declined by 31.6 percent. Yet, the children who had 3 or more placements increased by only 4.4 percent. This suggests children with more challenging placement histories are exiting care, not just those who may more quickly achieve permanency. Notably, over this period, the percentage of children in this population in pre-adoptive placements increased by 31.3 percent. This suggests that California has been moving more children, with more difficult placement histories to permanency. Similarly, there has been a shift in the 16.6 percent decline in the percentage of this population placed in group homes. The data indicates that most children in this population are placed in FFA homes.

Table 3: Children in Care 24 Months or More with Three or More Placements
(Child Welfare Supervised)¹

FFY	2004		2009		2004 - 2009 % change
Placement Type	n	%	n	%	
Pre adopt	3,850	12.4%	3,609	16.3%	31.3%
Kin	7,379	23.8%	5,050	22.8%	-4.1%
Foster	3,448	11.1%	1,648	7.5%	-33.1%
FFA	7,876	25.4%	6,369	28.8%	13.3%
Group Home	5,434	17.5%	3,234	14.6%	-16.6%
Guardian	2,553	8.2%	1,928	8.7%	5.8%
Other	443	1.4%	281	1.3%	-11.1%
Total 3 or more placements	30,983	100%	22,119	100%	-28.6%
% w/ 3 or more	64%		66.8%		4.4%
Total FC 24 Mos +	48,374		33,103		-31.6%

¹ Data derived from website. Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Lou, C., Peng, C. & Moore, M. (2010). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 5/16/2010, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

One of the challenges of looking at data on stability is that children move for many reasons, some considered negative, others more positive, for example, furthering the case plan goal, moving to a lower level of care or a placement with siblings or relatives. Some children may move because their caregivers needed more support, or the child's needs exceeded the caregivers' capacity to meet them. Others move because they are moving to family-based care from a group home. The current measures do not allow for such considerations.

In comparing children who entered foster care in 2003 with those who entered in 2008, and were in care 12 months later, it is clear that California is making improvement. There was a 35.2 percent increase (from 46.4 percent in 2003 to 63.2 percent in 2008) in the percentage of children with only one or two placements.² This suggests that strategies to improve children's stability are having an impact for children, particularly for children entering foster care.

While it is not possible to determine with certainty the reasons for the improvement, California has been working steadily to improve practice in a number of ways that are likely to affect stability:

- Placing children with and providing supports to relatives or non-related extended family members:
 - California has long had policies that prioritize placing children with relatives and social workers must consider for placement a relative who steps forward.
 - Placing children with and providing supports to relatives or non-related extended family members has always been a priority for California. California has also provided KSSP for relatives that care for their relative foster care children. Please see page 151 of the Child and Family Services Training Plan for further information regarding this program during the 2009/10 SFY.
- Increasing social worker visits with children. Please refer to page 28 for details regarding California's efforts toward this goal.
- Efforts to engage children, youth and families in placement decisions and case planning
Parent Partners programs: Please see the section entitled Considerations for Placement Stability and Permanency in the Wraparound Program (page 56) and the CAPTA section (page 109) for more information on this program.
- Increasing permanency for older youth:
 - California Permanency for Youth Project. Please see page 51 for details on this program.
 - Older Youth Adoption Pilot Project. Please see pages 52 for further information on this project.

In addition, most of California's PIP strategies are anticipated to have a positive impact on placement stability. Since the data reported largely precedes the implementation of the PIP, it will not yet indicate any impact of these strategies.

² Data derived from website. Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Lou, C., Peng, C. & Moore, M. (2010). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 5/16/2010, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Considerations for Placement Stability and Permanency in the Wraparound Program

The California Wraparound philosophy focuses on partnering with families to address complex needs. Wraparound connects families with the services and the support needed to achieve stability and permanency and avoid more intensive institutionalized forms of care, thus decreasing the number of foster care and/or group home placements. Plans are tailored to the child and family's unique strengths, and are updated regularly in response to changes and growth experienced by the family. Throughout the process, decisions reflect the voices of the child and family. The CEBC reviewed California Wraparound (<http://www.cebc4cw.org/program/68>), and rated the program as having "Promising Research Evidence" in the area of Placement Stabilization. Children will have fewer placements if they are supported in their homes or in other family-like settings.

The CFT advocate on behalf of and with each child and family, empowering them to reach their goals and to achieve self-sufficiency and independence from formal systems. The Wraparound Program offers families access to a process that sees them as partners, as opposed to "clients," increasing the likelihood that they will actively participate in that process. Moreover, when families are engaged as active participants in the reunification process and in services, positive outcomes are more likely. In Los Angeles County, data for calendar year 2009 shows that more than 90 percent of children who graduated from Wraparound remain with their families and continue to utilize community-based services.

In the Wraparound Program, a frequently used strategy to increase family engagement is the Parent Partner Program. A Parent Partner has had a child complete the Wraparound Program and is familiar with the process. A Parent Partner helps those parents (and their children) that are new to the Wraparound Program by attending CFT meetings with them, answering their questions/concerns, and offering them encouragement and support. In a July 2009 report from the University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, entitled *Partnering with Parents Promising Approaches to Improve Reunification Outcomes for Children in Foster Care* (http://www.parentadvocacy.org/padocs/Final_Report_UC_Berkeley_2009_Evaluation_of_Contra_Costa_Parent_Partners.pdf), Contra Costa County analyzed data from two groups of children to assess the impact of their Parent Partner program which focused on family engagement. Contra Costa County found that 60 percent of children, whose parents worked directly with a Parent Partner reunified within 12 months of removal, compared to 26 percent of children whose parents did not receive a Parent Partner.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment

California seeks to improve the state's diligent recruitment and retention of resource families. The state's overall goal is to attract quality resource families that reflect the diversity within California, and of the children in foster care, and to provide services that support resource families as they work to improve the lives of children in their care. The CFSR identified recruitment, retention and support of resource families as an area needing improvement. The PIP identifies specific activities associated with improving the recruitment and retention of resource families. The CDSS will meet the goals of the PIP through collaborative partnerships and various engagement strategies. To that end, the CDSS engaged the NRC for Recruitment

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and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents at AdoptUSKids to assist in pulling together stakeholders to identify possible strategies for improvement. This occurred in September 2009. Although California's fiscal crisis has hampered major efforts, the state has taken steps toward improvements. These steps include consolidating and better coordinating existing efforts, improving customer service and initiating, with philanthropy and counties, a pilot program aimed at enhancing the state's recruitment and retention efforts of quality foster parents.

California conducted the Recruitment, Training and Resource Survey for SFY 2008/09 concerning California county efforts to recruit and retain resource families for foster youth. A synopsis of the survey results was submitted via California's CFSR PIP in early 2010. At the request of the DHHS and ACF, additional information was provided as requested on county-specific recruitment and retention efforts.

The activities outlined below are a few examples of California's efforts towards ensuring that the foster and adoptive families reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in California for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed. Of the approximately 70,000 children in care, of whom an estimated 45% are Latino, and 25% are Black, the activities described below focus on targeting those populations, as highlighted by the use of Latino media, bilingual staffing for resource families, and through focused recruitment in communities with high child welfare entry rates.

Recruitment Methods

1. Kern, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Yolo, Yuba, Fresno reported that the single most effective method identified for resource family recruitment was through word of mouth to other resource families and friends.

To highlight that effort, staff contacted Los Angeles and received the following examples of resource family recruitment. Success was gauged by the increase in inquiries and completed applications after events.

- Open your Heart Sunday is a collaboration with local faith based groups to promote foster care. The participating house of worship displayed Heart Galleries, a pictorial list of children available for foster care or adoption in the county. The pastor encouraged attendees to meet with social workers at the close of service to discuss the galleries. Los Angeles County reported that this recruitment effort was very successful.
- Latino Radio Outreach – The CDSS worked with local Latino radio stations to sponsor events. The stations provided radio spots and information to foster parents attached to their monthly aid warrant. Foster parents were to events and encouraged to bring other potential resource families. This type of event has been somewhat successful.
- LBGTQ Community – The CDSS collaborated with partners in the LBGTQ community to promote becoming a resource family at a community restaurant. This strengthened the relationship between CDSS and the community. Post cards were also distributed at the annual LA Gay Pride parade.
- Hospital Days – The CDSS worked with medical staff specializing in children with medical needs to recruit resource families at local hospitals. Flyers were distributed and staff promoted children available for foster care or adoption. This approach was somewhat successful.

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2. Kern County conducted two “Taking Care of Business Days” in communities that have high child welfare services entry rates. This allowed potential resource families the ability to complete most licensing requirements in one day.
3. San Bernardino County’s “Taking Care of Business Day” was a good tool in recruiting resource parents.
4. Yuba, Inyo, Butte, San Bernardino, Ventura, San Mateo, San Diego, Monterey, and Humboldt, reported that they used demographic data of the children and youth served to target resource families and maintained a history of data to identify changing trends in age, race, ethnicity and other information regarding children and youth served for recruitment purposes.
5. Bilingual staffing for resource families was available in all but 7 counties, Del Norte, Trinity, Butte, Nevada, Placer, Amador, and Solano.
6. San Bernardino, Orange, Sacramento, Shasta, Mendocino and Marin counties conducted specialized recruitment for resource families with special emphasis on:
 - Language and cultural identity.
 - Pregnant youth.
 - Deaf or hearing impaired youth
 - Infants /adolescents/youth with physical, learning and mental disabilities
 - Sibling Groups
7. Monterey County utilized the local Latino television station to run public service announcements to recruit resource families.

The state’s California Kids Connection (CKC) website, an online adoption exchange registry of children whose placement plan is adoption, is provided through a contract with Family Builders. The CDSS expanded this contract to include the state’s 1-800 foster care and adoption recruitment phone line, Adoption “Navigator” services and to continue to be the interface with AdoptUSKids. The intent of this is to increase consistency of the quality of the response to inquiries and the level of customer service in linking interested families to agencies with available children.

The CKC website has both a secure section and a public section. The public section of the website is accessible to any Internet user. In addition to the online registry, CKC services include exchange meetings, matching events, and training and education for caseworkers.

Presently, 82 percent of all public agencies and 66 percent of private agencies participate in exchange meetings and list children and families on the exchange site. As a result, the CKC has been very successful in finding permanent homes for our foster children/youth. On March 1, 2010, 452 children were listed on the website:

- 59 percent of the children were included on the public section of the website.
- 41 percent were on the secure section of the website.
- 81 percent were children of color.
- 51 percent were over the age of 12.

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This reflects a nine percent increase in the percentage of children on the public site and an 18.6 percent increase of the number of youth over the age of 12 listed on the website. California continues efforts to ensure older youth receive permanency such as the OYA Pilot Program.

There was a monthly average of 505 inquiries by qualified and approved families during this period and since July 1, 2009, 91 children were reported as being matched through CKC, representing an almost a 300 percent increase over the prior year.

In order to improve diligent recruitment for families of Indian children, California is also in discussion with tribes regarding inclusion of Indian children who have been freed for adoption and who are not registered on the online adoption exchange registry. Some tribes are requesting this service in order to ensure these children have the best possibility of being placed in a permanent home.

Adoption Navigator Services

CKC also has partnerships with 10 counties to provide Adoption Navigator services for the children listed on the CKC website. The navigators provide critical support and guidance to interested families as they navigate through the adoption process. Their goal is to help the families save time, energy and invariably, money, through emotional, social and strategic support. Since July 1, 2009, Adoption Navigators have served over 300 children and 27 children have been placed with adoptive families, due to matches facilitated by Adoption Navigators. These are children who may have otherwise remained in care. Thus, these services assist the state with meeting the well being and permanency goals for children in foster care.

AdoptUSKids

CKC also interfaces with AdoptUSKids. The CKC Recruitment Response Team is funded by the CDSS and responds to inquiries about adoption generated by AdoptUSKids' national recruitment campaign. Since July 1, 2009, the Recruitment Response Team has answered the inquiries of 991 families some of whose primary language is Spanish.

1-800-KIDS-4-US

In October 2009, CKC began answering the statewide, toll-free, CDSS information line, 1-800-KIDS-4-US. The line is answered by a bilingual staff member who provides information in English or Spanish. Callers are given information on the foster care and adoption process and are provided with non-directive referrals to licensed public and private adoption agencies and county social services offices. CKC staff answers an average of 71 calls regarding foster care, 11 calls about foster/adopt, and 27 calls about other topics each month.

Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Project

In early 2009, the CDSS, the Youth Law Center and the CWDA joined in a collaborative effort with philanthropic support (Stuart Foundation, Taproot Foundation, Walter S. Johnson Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and David P Gold Foundation) to create the Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Project (R&R Project). The main goal of the project is to develop a statewide approach to recruiting and retaining high quality caregivers who provide excellent care to children in California's child welfare system. An advisory committee was formed to

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inform the project and includes county and state staff, caregivers, biological parents, community partners, private agencies and former foster youth.

In early 2010, the R & R Project selected nine counties to test best practices related to recruitment and retention. There are nine counties divided into two phases that will be participating in the pilot. Each pilot county is responsible for:

- Designating a staff person to coordinate these efforts and to connect with other sites.
- Maintaining data to measure the effectiveness of recruitment and retention efforts.
- Designating a core workgroup including representatives of key stakeholder groups: caregivers, biological parents, former foster youth, agency staff, line workers, licensing, recruitment, and training staff, mental health, court and others.
- Each site will engage in a process to develop a "brand" for high quality foster parenting. The site will also review and modify internal and external policies and procedures to ensure their consistency with this brand.
- Sites will participate in a series of on-site and statewide meetings.

The first phase will consist of Kern and Fresno (paired) San Luis Obispo and Ventura (paired), and Santa Clara. The second phase is Sonoma and Humboldt (paired) Santa Barbara and Nevada. Plan development for the first phase will be from March – July 2010, and the second phase from July - November 2010. The plans will be developed in coordination with the CDSS and YLC. After the plans are finalized counties will begin their implementation phase with various benchmarks to check the progress.

Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver Education Program

The CDSS collaborates with the Chancellor's Office of California's Community Colleges to provide the education and training of foster parents and relative care providers through a contract with the Foster Care and Kinship Care Education Training Program (FKCE). The CDSS also sits on the Chancellor's Office FKCE State Advisory Committee that also has representatives from care providers and counties.

For funding and planning information about this program, please refer to the Training and Staff Development section of this report, pages 134-135.

Foster Care Month

As special recognition for achievements in foster care, the CDSS and over 20 statewide organizations, including the Legislature and the AOC, come together in the month of May to celebrate foster care month in California. The 2010 State Capitol Foster Care Month Kickoff Event was held on May 3, 2010, featuring the theme, "Change a Lifetime: Foster Connections to Success." The keynote speaker was country western singer, Jimmy Wayne, a former foster youth. This year's event marked the sixth year anniversary of the event at the Capitol. Related events during the month included a reception to honor Assembly Member Karen Bass, a California Youth Connection Exhibit at the State Capitol held May 17-21 and a Foster Parents Walk-a-Thon held May 3, 2010. This event allows counties and their partners to speak one to

one with potential foster parents and to provide information to the public about becoming foster parents.

Inter-country Adoption

Instructions related to implementation of the Hague Convention were issued to all California inter-country adoption agencies in ACL 09-10.

In March 2010, the CDSS' adoptions district offices, reported that in the last year, there have been no known adoptions which fell under the auspices of Family Code 8903 (failed international adoptions). Unfortunately, this data is not currently captured in the CWS/CMS application. However, the CDSS has submitted a request that the CWS/CMS application be changed to capture this data. These changes are currently scheduled to be released in September 2011 in version 6.5.

Licensing Waivers

The number and percentage of children in foster care placed in licensed relative foster family homes:

- Relative foster family homes in California are approved to core licensing standards, whereas non-related foster family homes are licensed to those same standards. The most recent data available (February 2010) indicates there are 22,800 children in foster care placed in an approved relative foster family home, which is 33.5 per cent of all foster care placements.

The number and percentage of children in foster care placed in unlicensed relative foster family homes:

- A small number of children are placed via court order into a relative home that may have been assessed but was not approved; these placements are known as "court specified homes". The number of these placements is captured in the placement category "Other Unspecified Home" which also includes the number of placements in small family homes and tribe specified homes. The total number of children placed in this category as of February 2010 is 1,179 which is 1.7 percent of all foster care placements.

The frequency of case-by-case waivers of non-safety licensing standards for relative foster family homes:

- This data is not collected. There is no mechanism to collect this data; the CWS/CMS is not the database counties would use and it is cost-prohibitive to create a CCL-like database to collect this.

The types of non-safety licensing standards waived:

- Although the foster family home regulations have been recently (April 2010) revised, no additional waivers were created; two regulations sections are permitted an exception (or waiver). These are non-safety requirements related to bedroom space and home telephone service.

Assessment of how such case-by-case waivers of non-safety licensing standards have affected children in foster care, including their safety, permanency and well-being:

- Anecdotal information indicates that allowing an exception to the regulatory requirements concerning bedroom space facilitates placement of the child with a relative whose home does not meet pertinent regulations. It allows a child who would otherwise have to be placed elsewhere because of the bedroom-related requirements to be placed with a relative. The exception may also enable siblings to be placed together. The exception (waiver) facilitates placement with family. Allowing an exception to having a land-line telephone affords the caregiver to reduce household expenses by using a cell phone to meet all telephoning needs.

Reasons why relative foster family homes may not be licensed despite authority to grant such case-by-case waivers of non-safety licensing standards:

- Relative foster family homes are primarily denied due to non-exemptible criminal history, prior reports to the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI), or prior reports to Child Welfare Services.

Future actions planned to increase the percentage of relative foster family homes that are licensed while ensuring the safety of children in foster care and improving their permanence and well-being:

- Strengthen family finding and engagement activities; expand current efforts for inclusion of family members in case plan development; continued involvement with the Family to Family Initiative; enhance and expand caregiver recruitment, retention, training and support; and, develop a subsidized relative guardianship program in compliance with the federal Fostering Connections for Success Act.

Suggestions the State has for administrative and or legislative actions to increase licensed relative care. (See 45 CFR 1355.20 for definitions):

- Eliminate the 1996 AFDC-FC “look-back” requirements to allow more relative caregivers to receive a Title IV-E payment. The eligibility criteria has income limits that make many relative caregivers ineligible for IV-E/Foster Family Placement (FFP) because the income levels have not been adjusted for inflation, allowing only the most economically disadvantaged children to be eligible. Children who do not meet the 1996 levels are only eligible to receive a lower payment under TANF (CalWORKs). This payment disparity can affect the ability of the caregiver to fully meet the needs of the child because they receive less money and impacts achieving permanence for these children who may not qualify for other programs if they are not IV-E eligible. Receiving a lower payment (not being IV-E eligible) may be the reason a relative does not step forward as the child’s caregiver.

How Waivers of Licensing Standards Contribute to Placement Stability:

Allowing these types of waivers facilitates a child being placed in the more stable of out of home placement types of that with a relative. Placement with a related caregiver may help reduce the number of placements a child experiences and contribute to an overall improvement in California’s Permanency Composites regarding placement stability.

CWS/CMS Cases Closing to Probation or Incarceration

All CWS/CMS cases that closed during the FFY (10/01/2008 to 09/30/2009 with an indicated closure reason of probation or non-601/602 incarceration.

Period of Report: 10/01/2008 to 09/30/2009

All 600/Incarceration case closure reason types are included:

- Incarcerated - Adjudicated 601/602
- Not Incarcerated – Adjudicate 601/602
- Incarcerated – Adjudicated Non 601/302
- Child receiving services from Probation, Case Suspended

In FFY 2009, CWS/CMS identified 948 cases that closed due to one of the above 600/Incarceration closure reasons.

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WELL-BEING

Needs and Services of the Child, Parent and Foster Parent

Many of the items addressed in the attached PIP for Quarter 4 which ended on June 30, 2010, including the CFSR well-being outcomes, Items 17, 18 and 19, demonstrate the great strides taken towards improving the well-being of children and families in California. Item 17 which centers on addressing the needs of children, parents and foster parents by increasing the percentage to 5.9% of children in foster care and in-home receiving Wraparound services. In addition, baselines and targets were established for Items 18 and 19. Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning, established a baseline of 10.3% and a target of 10.5% of cases to have a Family Engagement Effort (FEE) contact with a parent, child or caregiver by the of Quarter 5, ending on September 30th, 2010. Item 19, with a focus on strengthening caseworker visits with children in foster care, established a baseline of 83.2% and a target of 83.4% of visits to be rated as a strength by the end of Quarter 5, September 30, 2010.

Further efforts toward this goal are highlighted in Strategy 4 of the CFSR PIP stated on page 30 which was described as expanding options and creating flexibility for services and supports to meet the needs of children and families. The related activities to support this goal are illustrated in aforementioned section, and in the attached PIP.

Caseworker Visits for Children in Foster Care

Caseworker visits are a vital factor of the child welfare system process for foremost ensuring the safety of children, as well as evaluating the ongoing service needs of the child that promote their well-being and that of their families. Caseworkers meet with children and families to monitor children's safety and well-being; assess the ongoing service needs of children, families and foster parents; engage biological and foster parents in developing case plans; assess permanency options for the child; monitor family progress toward established case plan goals; and ensure that children and parents are receiving necessary services. At each stage of the intervention, caseworkers, with the support of their supervisors, determine the type of supports that children and their families need to ensure that the children are safe, are in or moving toward permanent homes, and have stable living arrangements that promote their well-being.

States are required to increase the percentage of foster children that are visited monthly to 90 percent by October 1, 2011, and to implement measurements for what constitutes a quality visit with a foster child. California has two separate PIPs approved by the federal government to meet these mandates. The Caseworker Visit PIP is focused on increasing frequency of caseworker visits, improving the quality of visits, and improving data collection. The second PIP resulted from the federal CFSR and is focused on increasing the quality of caseworker visits. Below are the goals for both PIPs along with an update on the progress California has made in meeting these goals.

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California's Program Improvement Plan to Conform with Public Law 109-288 – Caseworker Visits with Children

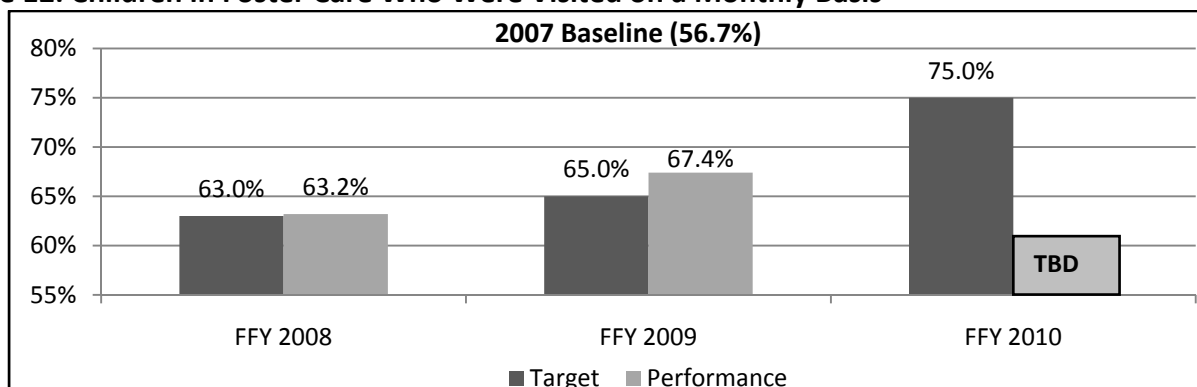
Goal 1 for 2009: Eliminate existing exceptions to the monthly visit requirements that are currently allowed by California regulations as necessary to comply with federal requirements.

Update:

- The CDSS is currently working on changes to the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Division 31 which would provide for monthly visitation of children placed out of state and would eliminate and clarify monthly visit exceptions as required by federal law. The regulations are currently in process and scheduled for public hearing on November 17, 2010. The estimated date of finalization of the regulations is August of 2011.
- Due to delays caused by budget cuts and resulting furloughs, the CDSS will be requesting to renegotiate the Caseworker Visit PIP. The CDSS will be unable to make the original December 31, 2010 deadline.

Goal 2 for 2009: Implement data reporting of caseworker visits by foster family agency (FFA) caseworkers for county agency data entry.

Figure 12: Children in Foster Care Who Were Visited on a Monthly Basis

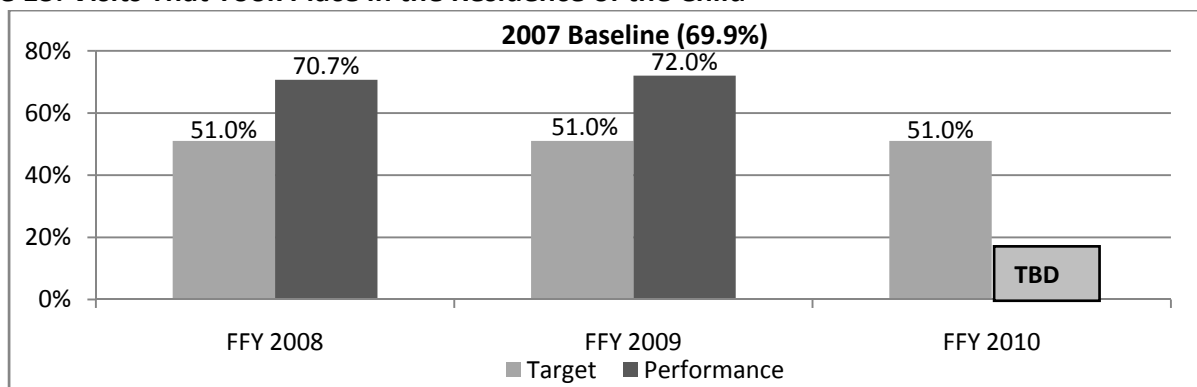


It is important to note that California's reporting for caseworker visits differs from general AFCARS data reporting in that it presently does not include the probation population. The probation population is not included in this data because the AFCARS application for probation data was developed specifically to collect AFCARS data required at the time of development. Therefore, it does not have the capacity to collect the more recent mandates associated with the caseworker visit information. County probation departments report visits on a monthly aggregate paper form. This form indicated that in June 2010, 99.6% of probation youth in foster care are visited monthly. The CDSS is working to add probation officers as users of the CWS/CMS system so that visits to probation youth can be reported similarly as visits to court-dependent children.

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Figure 13: Visits That Took Place in the Residence of the Child



Updates:

- In SFY 2009/10, California allocated funds to all 58 counties to increase visits and the additional data entry workload not previously required. Counties are using this funding to perform activities designed to support increased monthly caseworker visits to children in foster care; to create positive outcomes for children; and to improve caseworker retention, recruitment, training, and ability to access the benefits of technology. The requirements for utilizing the increased funding for caseworker visit activities are associated with the children included below:
 - Children who are in stable placement with a relative or foster parent who has had the child at least 12 months;
 - Children placed voluntarily and the child's parents/guardians who visit at least monthly;
 - The child is under two years of age and less frequent Social Worker (SW) visit can facilitate more frequent parent/SW visit thus facilitating reunification;
 - Children residing out of state in a facility other than a group home;
 - A dependent child's case has approval by the court for less frequent visits; and
 - A voluntary child's case has approval by a county deputy director for less frequent visits.
- California uses CWS/CMS to capture data on social worker visits. CWS/CMS captures the location of the visit, a required field when a contact is entered. The state will continue to use this system for federal reporting on this issue. In addition, because FFAs, with whom counties have placement agreements, do not have access to input data to CWS/CMS, an alternate method of collecting/reporting the data has been developed. A reporting form, the SOC 160, has been developed. FFA social workers will document their visits with the child on this form and send them to the county on a monthly basis. A data entry workaround has been identified so that county social workers can enter the data into the CWS/CMS system. The CDSS is currently working on an update to the CWS/CMS system which would eliminate the need for a workaround. This information was transmitted to counties via ACL 10-19 dated April 21, 2010.
- A new FFA placement agreement was developed, the SOC 154A, and is now available to the counties. This form was transmitted to the counties via ACL 10-19, dated April 21, 2010.

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Goal 3 for 2009: Implement data collection for juvenile justice foster children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care.

Update:

- Update: Tokens for CWS/CMS access have been distributed to probation officers. A pilot program is currently underway in three counties to train probation officers how to enter the data into CWS/CMS.

Goal 4 for 2009: Implement changes to departmental regulations which align the purpose, frequency, and location of caseworker visits and FFA social worker visits with the child with federal requirements, to eliminate monthly visit exceptions, and to reflect monthly visit data reporting requirements regarding FFA, probation, and out-of-county/out-of-state courtesy supervision placements.

Update:

- The CDSS is currently working on changes to the MPP Division 31, which would provide for monthly visitation of children placed out of state; and eliminate and clarify monthly visit exceptions as required by federal law. The regulations are currently in process and scheduled for public hearing on November 17, 2010. The estimated date of finalization of the regulations is August of 2011.
- Due to delays caused by furloughs and budget cuts, the CDSS will be requesting to renegotiate the Caseworker Visit PIP. The CDSS will be unable to make the original December 31, 2010 deadline.

Caseworker Visits with Parents

Improving the quality of caseworker visits with parents is an important factor in promoting the well-being of families by including and actively engaging birth parents in case planning activities that builds on their existing strengths and resources. The CDSS' commitment to these efforts is underscored in CFSR-PIP Strategy 1 (page 27), which among its goals include increasing the engagement of families and others in case planning and decision-making processes across the life of the case. Related activities towards these efforts include establishing a baseline for a new data measure on Family Engagement Efforts; encouraging family engagement strategies in case planning by issuing an ACIN; reviewed, revised, and disseminated Permanency Protocols as discussed in the following paragraph; and lastly, developed family engagement and participatory case planning guidelines for the Linkages Program. The CDSS is also in the process of finalizing the methodology and tool for case reviews to determine quality of social worker visits with parents and children, discussed previously on page 28.

According to the Permanency Protocols developed by the 11 counties involved in the 11-County Evaluation Pilot Project, various strategies to engage parents in case planning activities were identified. These included facilitating regular in person meetings with parents, their children, and caregivers to develop a visitation plan that supports the parent/child relationship. Social workers are also trained on utilizing best practice interviewing guidelines that promote family engagement and educating parents on the court process and empowering them in

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understanding their rights and responsibilities can also be a vital factor in a family succeeding with their family reunification efforts. TDMs and other Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meetings or conferences held throughout the life of a case involve parents and other extended family members in identifying the safety and placement issues and needs of their children on an ongoing basis. Ice Breaker Meetings also help the parent and caregiver develop a mutually supportive relationship in order to share information to address the best interests of the child. Parent Partners and other Family Mentoring Programs are trained to support parents who are currently working towards reunifying with their children. Mentors that participate in this program are parents whose children were removed from their homes and have subsequently been reunified.

California's Program Improvement Plan to Conform with the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 – Monthly Caseworker Visits

Description of Goal	Target Percentage End of FFY 2010
Children in foster care who were visited on a monthly basis	75%
Visits that took place in the residence of the foster child	51%

Federal Fiscal Year 2010

California's goals for 2010 are twofold:

- Improve data collection for those foster children who are placed out-of-county under courtesy supervision or out-of-state.
- Identify barriers to caseworker recruitment and retention and develop a plan for removing those barriers.

California projects that implementation of the following strategies will result in the aforementioned target percentages:

- In SFY 2009/10, California has and will continue to allocate to the counties funds to increase visiting and the additional data entry workload not previously required.
- California is also utilizing the same strategy previously discussed under the second bullet of the Caseworker Visit PIP on page 69.

Strategy One

To meet this goal, the CDSS will develop procedures for reporting of visit information where the child is placed out-of-county or out-of-state.

- Out-of-county: If the child is placed in a county, which is contiguous to the sending county, then the sending county retains responsibility for visiting the child. For example, if the child is placed in Los Angeles County by Riverside County, Riverside would retain responsibility for visiting the child. Riverside County would send one of its workers to the child's home in Los Angeles County. However, if a child were placed in Sacramento County by Riverside

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County, then Riverside County would request that Sacramento County perform “courtesy supervision.” Sacramento County, or any host county, can refuse the provision of those services Riverside would, of course, retain primary responsibility for the child and must ensure that services are being performed. However, because California and its counties are currently experiencing financial difficulties which cause them to have high caseloads, courtesy supervision requests are more likely to be denied. Accordingly, for children placed out-of-county, California will work to develop a process to clarify responsibilities for courtesy supervision and ensure those visits are recorded in CWS/CMS which it will release via policy letter.

- Out-of-state: When a foster child is placed out-of-state, supervision is requested via the ICPC by the sending state. Although visits are generally being conducted by host states, California usually only receives the visit data quarterly from the host state. In addition, there are currently no instructions which mandate counties to enter this information in to the CWS/CMS. Accordingly, the CDSS will issue instructions on how to properly record out-of-state monthly visit data.

Strategy Two

The CDSS will work with the workgroup and other interested parties to develop a plan to identify and address barriers to caseworker recruitment and retention.

Strategies for FFY 2011 were identified in the CFSP (pp 46-47) and will be reported in the FFY 2011 APSR.

Physical and Mental Well-being

The following programs highlight some of the CDSS’ efforts toward ensuring the well-being of children and families in the areas of physical and mental health.

Health Care Services: Oversight and Coordination

This section is included as an update to the Health Care Services Plan included in the CFSP (located on pp. 47-51). The updated plan (a) supports current efforts to determine and meet the health care needs of children and youth in foster care, (b) represents a coordinated strategy to identify and respond to their health, mental health and dental health needs, and (c) supports oversight and coordination of health related services.

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFC) is at the center of California’s Health Oversight and Coordination Plan. California’s Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program implements the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment standards of care for Medicaid-eligible children and youth, which includes those in foster care.

Through an interagency agreement, the CDSS provides an annual SGF appropriation to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), which allocates those funds to county CHDP programs in proportion to their foster care populations. With these funds, county CHDP programs employ public health nurses stationed in county child welfare agency offices to provide intensive administrative medical case management services to ensure that children and youth in foster care receive the full array of CHDP services.

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Nurses employed by this program are also responsible for evaluation and updating of health records, the determination of adherence to reasonable standards of medical practice, linkages, and referrals for services. This program is also the central vehicle for ensuring that the mental health and developmental health needs of children in foster care are identified and addressed.

Legislation in the 2008/09 session (AB 597) provided a statutory framework for interdisciplinary collaboration on the Health Oversight and Coordination Plan required by PL 110-351. County participation in the HCPCFC was mandated.

PL 110-351 also required that the CDSS consult with pediatricians, public health nurses and other health care experts in plan development and it required the participation of experts in and recipients of child welfare services, including parents. This requirement corresponds with The CDSS's current efforts to continuously and actively involve and consult with physicians and other appropriate medical or non-medical professionals in assessing the health and well-being of children in foster care and in determining appropriate medical treatment for children.

Effective January 1, 2010, the California budget appropriated additional funds to the CDSS for the HCPCFC, and the proposed 2010/11 budget provides for further augmentation. These budget actions permit counties to hire additional public health nurses and to reduce their caseload sizes. All activities supported by these funds are directly related to the services and outcomes required by PL 110-351.

The following provides an update on the planned activities of Health Care Coordination and Oversight Plan established in the 2009-2014 CFSP:

- By the end of the second quarter of 2010, renegotiate an existing interagency agreement with the DHCS for the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care to ensure that county CHDP programs support the services and outcomes in PL 110-351.

Update: Renegotiated an existing interagency agreement, for Fiscal Years 2010-2013. The interagency agreement provides provisions that ensure county HCPCFC funds to work with Child Welfare caseworkers and/or probation officers, to ensure children in foster care, or probation departments, receive all needed health care services. The PHNs funded under this agreement provide health care oversight of the physical, behavioral, dental, and developmental needs of children in foster care, including those in out-of-county and out-of-state placements.

- By the end of the second quarter of 2010, provide technical assistance to DHCS and to county CHDP programs to ensure that memoranda of understanding the two agencies support PL 110-351.

Update: Technical assistance has been provided to county CHDP/HCPCFC in the development of the MOU, to ensure that the CHDP/HCPCFC supports PL 110-351, specifically CDSS:

- Participated in quarterly statewide and regional meetings of county CHDP executives and public health nurses.

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- Collaborated with PHN's in the development of policies, to ensure all children in foster care are referred to health and mental health services appropriate to age and health status on a timely basis.
 - Collaborated with PHN's to ensure that children placed out-of-county have access to health services appropriate to age and health status.
- By the end of the third quarter of 2010, provide technical assistance to county CHDP programs, child welfare agencies, and juvenile probation agencies to ensure that active memoranda of understanding are in place that support PL 110-351.
- By the end of the fourth quarter of 2010, establish with the DHCS a schedule for initial and follow-up health screenings that meet reasonable standards of medical practice.
- By the end of the second quarter of 2011, establish with the DHCS processes to ensure (a) health needs identified through initial and follow-up screenings are monitored and treated; (b) medical information will be updated by public health nurses and other health care professionals and appropriately shared; (c) continuity of health care services is ensured; (d) a process of oversight of prescription medications is established.
- By the end of the first quarter of 2011, CDSS will submit legislative proposals to amend WIC sections 16501.1 and 391. Section 16501.1 will be amended to include the requirement that, as part of the 90 day Transition Planning Process, the social worker or probation officer will provide the foster youth with information explaining his or her option to obtain a power of attorney for health care. Section 391 currently details the requirement that youth be provided with important documents upon reaching the age of majority while in foster care, such as a social security card and a birth certificate. The section will be amended to add the requirement that youth are provided the Advanced Health Directive form, which provides youth with the option to execute a power of attorney for healthcare.
 - Amendments to state statute will ensure that California is in compliance with PL 111-148. A revised 90-day Transition Plan form, which will serve as verification that the youth received the required information, will be available on the CMS/CWS system, allowing the CDSS to monitor whether counties assist youth in completing a Transition Plan.
- Continuously and actively consult with and involve physicians and other appropriate medical or non-medical professionals in assessing the health and well-being of children in foster care and in determining appropriate medical treatment for children.

Access to Mental Health Treatment Services for Foster Youth Placed Out Of County

Senate Bill (SB) 785 (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2007) required the DMH to create a standardized contract, service authorization procedures, and related procedures to facilitate a foster child's receipt of medically necessary mental health services. Stakeholder groups negotiated with the DMH to develop standardized contracts and service authorization procedures. The primary

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goal of these efforts is to ensure that children and youth placed out-of-county receive the mental health services determined to be necessary to meet their needs.

In spite of progress made through SB 785, barriers remain to ensuring appropriate mental health services for children placed out-of-county. The CWC has identified concerns. In response, the CDSS executive and research staff have engaged with the DMH and with counties to determine the scope of the problem and to identify possible solutions. The numbers of children and youth potentially affected are high. Data for the past decade suggest that between 20 to 22 percent of foster youth in California were placed outside of their counties of origin. As of March 2010, over 10,000 foster youth were placed outside of their counties of origin. Most youth were placed in three types of placements; 3,739 with a foster family agency, 1,232 in a group home, and 4,426 with relative or non-related extended family members.

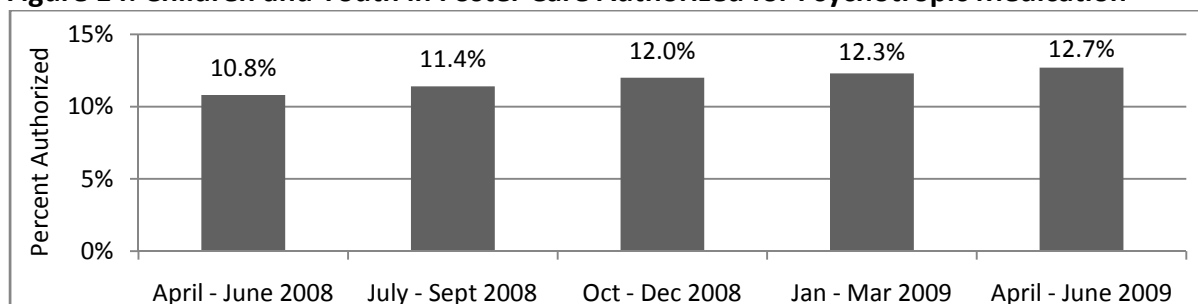
Psychotropic Medications prescribed to Children and Youth in Foster Care

Judicial approval is mandated by California law prior to the administration of psychotropic to children and youth in foster care. Existing California law established processes and protections in regards to the administration of psychotropic medications for dependents of the court. The Psychotropic Medication Protocol, also referred to as the JV220 process, initiates the court authorization of psychotropic medications for dependents of the court. Without agreement between the youth, the court and the physician, no child in foster care will be administered any psychotropic medication. Welfare Institutions Code 369.5 states that only a juvenile court judicial officer may make orders regarding administration, unless the court finds the parent is capable of making the order. The authorization is based on a request from the child's doctor indicating the reasons for the request, a description of the child's diagnosis and behavior, and the expected results and side effects of the medication. County child welfare agencies must complete a request for authorization form within three business days of the receipt of the request from the physician, and the court must deny or approve the request within seven business days of receipt of the form.

The CDSS collaborates with the judiciary and child psychiatrists to ensure that the necessary processes and protections are in place and current. California has also included a measure on psychotropic medication in its Outcomes and Accountability System.

The following are the most recent statewide data on children and youth in foster care for whom judicial approval has been issued for administration of a psychotropic medication.

Figure 14: Children and Youth in Foster Care Authorized for Psychotropic Medication



Considerations toward Well-being in the California Wraparound Program

In the Wraparound Program, children receive more comprehensive coordinated care with respect to education, health and mental health services. Only through partnerships with families, communities, and other service providers can the state and county promote the well-being of children who are at risk of being removed from their homes or who are being reunified with families.

For children in Los Angeles County, the Wraparound Program has linked individual children and families to appropriate services to meet their educational needs. The following data are based on the 34 community-based Los Angeles County provider agencies across three Referral Departments (DCFS, Probation and DMH) who were providing Wraparound services to 2,206 children and their families during the SFY 2008-2009. Los Angeles County recently evaluated the effectiveness of their Wraparound Program in relation to education and well-being. They used the following two Outcome Indicators:

- 50 percent of children function at grade level or improved grade-level functioning from previous year;
75 percent of children maintain at least 80 percent school attendance rate or improved attendance rate from the previous year; see Figure 15 below.

Figure 15: Well-Being for Children in Wraparound in Los Angeles

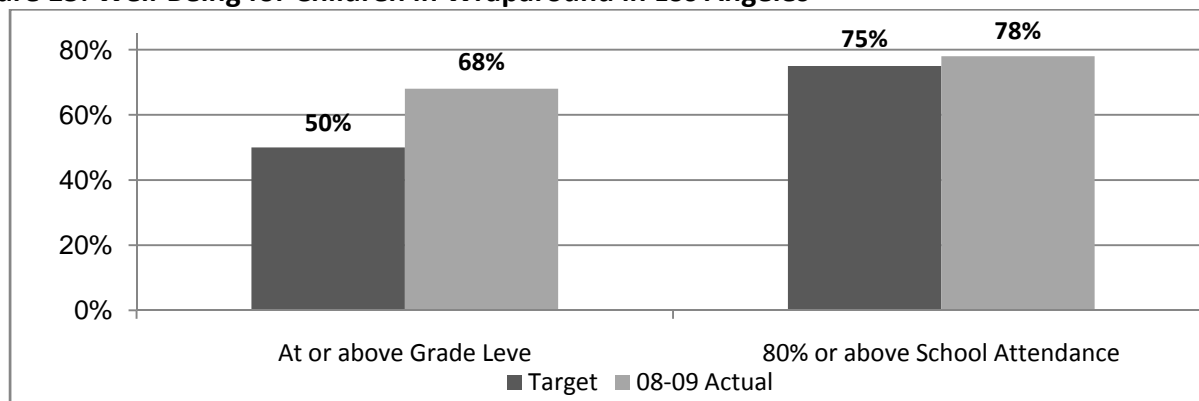


Figure 15: Well-Being Performance Measure for children and their families receiving Wraparound services from thirty-four contracted agencies across three referral departments (DCFS, Probation, and DMH) in Los Angeles County during the SFY 08/09.

Both of the well-being performance measures exceeded their corresponding target levels in the past SFY 08/09. These results point to Wraparound's overall success providing families with the tools to increase the opportunities for the greater overall well-being of children in Wraparound.

The Wraparound Program facilitates a process so that children will receive adequate services to meet their mental health needs, which is measured by their social, emotional and community functioning. The overall levels of behavioral dysfunction are typically assessed by a pre and post method using the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). The CAFAS is an assessment tool that measures a child's functional impairment in eight life domains including behaviors, mood/emotions, thought processing, substance abuse and performance in the home, school and community. Wraparound providers that used the CAFAS indicated a significant decrease of behavioral dysfunction from admission to discharge.

A 2009 study by Eastfield Ming Quong (EMQ)-Families First in the Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders,

<http://www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OS/CSoc/0509JEBDWraparoundArticle.pdf>

identified positive improvements of children engaged in the Wraparound Program through the use of the CAFAS. The 2009 study found a significant difference between CAFAS scores for youth living in a community setting at the time of discharge and youth living in a facility setting at the time of discharge. The average total CAFAS score at admission for each group was similar. The youth who were discharged in community placement showed statistically and clinically significant improvement in their CAFAS scores between admission and discharge. Youth who were living in a facility at the time of discharge showed a statistically significant difference between admission and discharge scores. In sharp contrast, the average total scores for youth who were living in a community setting dropped to 60 from over 100. This improvement suggests that Wraparound services are effective in dealing with populations with high and low levels of behavioral dysfunction.

Katie A. Los Angeles County Strategic Plan

The Los Angeles County DCFS and DMH developed the Strategic Plan to provide a single comprehensive vision for the current and planned delivery of mental health services to children under the supervision and care of child welfare, as well as for those at-risk of entering the child welfare system. The Strategic Plan provides a detailed road map for the implementation/delivery of mental health services Countywide, in fulfillment of the objectives identified in the Katie A. Settlement Agreement, over a five-year period, and acts as the central reference for incorporating several planning efforts in this regard³.

As directed by leadership, and consistent with the Los Angeles County's Katie A. Strategic Plan, the Inter-University Consortium Department of Children and Family Services (IUC/DCFS) partnership continues to be highly focused on developing and delivering training to support increased and improved screening, assessment, and service delivery for children and families in the child welfare system with mental health needs. Training deliverables have been organized,

³ http://dcfs.lacounty.gov/katieA/plan_for_compliance/complianceplan.html

planned, piloted and delivered in varied sequences and phases to support key Katie A. plans including:

- Training focused on integrating and implementing the DCFS/DMH Core Practice Model, follow-up coaching, mentoring and skill development for line staff and supervisors and on the expansion of Child and Family Teams and Quality Services Review standards/practices that serve as the exit criteria for the Katie A. Settlement Agreement.
- Implementation of Coordinated Services Action Teams (CSAT) and Katie A. plan components and commitments for screening, assessment and service delivery.
- Training for line staff providing support to the expansion of Wraparound and related services/supports for children and youth with specialized mental health needs as described and mandated by the Katie A. plan.

Substance Abuse/HIV Infant Program (SA/HIV)

Children in the SA/HIV Infant Program are placed with specifically trained foster parents who are skilled in providing care for children who are exposed to drugs, and/or alcohol during gestation.

Progress has been made in training, technical assistance, and research evaluation that supports positive outcomes in relation to systemic factors and well-being in some of the counties that participate in the SA/HIV Infant Program. The highlights are provided below:

- An evidence based parent education program on Nurturing Parenting has been added to foster parent training in Butte County.
- Monterey County recently completed a PQCR. The main focus of the PQCR was to determine placement stability in foster care including SA/HIV placements. PQCR recommendations that were implemented include the following activities:
 - “FOCUS Meetings” were conducted to provide greater communication between caregivers, birth parents, social workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), and therapists. These meetings addressed communication issues with the goal of building a working relationship between the families for the child’s benefit. A communication workgroup meets at least once a month and is chaired by a social worker. Four social workers are assigned licensed foster homes (each is assigned 25 percent of the total) to provide support, and answer questions.
- Santa Cruz County utilizes *Ages and Stages*, a child screening and monitoring system. Fifty community providers attended a special one-day, in-service training on the Ages & Stages process along with training on the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, which is designed to help providers identify infants and young children who show potential developmental or socio-emotional problems. The questionnaire promotes earlier assessment of perinatal substance abuse children and leads to appropriate referral throughout their community.

The identified highlights assist the state with promoting assessments and improving the needs of the families and children as indicated in the CFSP (page 70).

Plans for the future:

- The CDSS and San Luis Obispo County will co-sponsor statewide trainings for SA/HIV Infant Program staff on Educational Therapy.
- The CDSS is exploring ways to assist the participating counties to effectively collect program data. Currently, counties have indicated that they are unable to collect data due to limited staffing resources and lack of separate SA/HIV data collection systems.

Monterey County will evaluate the assessments for the children of parents in dependency drug court to determine if earlier assessments are in fact occurring.

Additional information on the SA/HIV program may be found in the updated Child and Family Services Training Plan beginning on page 150

Education and Employment

The following programs highlight some of the CDSS' efforts toward ensuring well-being for children and families in the areas of Education and Employment.

The Foster Youth Services Program

The Foster Youth Services Program supports the well-being of current and former foster youth as they transition out of care. Administered by the CDE, the Foster Youth Services Program (1) identifies the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of foster youth; (2) determines gaps in the provision of educational and social support services and provide those services, either directly or through referral to collaborative partners; (3) identifies inadequacies in the completion and timely transfer of health and education records to facilitate appropriate and stable care and educational placement; (4) improves student academic achievement and reduce student truancy, dropout rates and delinquent behavior and (5) provides advocacy to promote the best interests of foster youth throughout California. While this program is administered by the CDE, the CDSS recognizes the benefit to the California's Foster Youth and collaborates when requested.

The most recent data available for the Foster Youth Services Core District Program (comprised of the following school districts: Sacramento City, San Juan, Elk Grove, Mt. Diablo and Paramount school districts and also Placer and Nevada Counties) shows that 74 percent of foster youth served in school year 2008/09 gained more than one month of academic growth per month of tutoring received. Therefore, the target population objective of 60 percent was surpassed by 14 percent. The collection of high school completion data indicates that 71 percent of eligible twelfth graders received a high school diploma, passed the GED, the California High School Proficiency Exam, or received a certificate of completion. In addition, only .69 percent of foster youth served through Foster Youth Services Core District Programs were expelled, surpassing the target rate of 5 percent. The foster youth student attendance rate reached 96 percent, exceeding the target attendance rate of 90 percent.

In the next year the CDE plans to:

- Continue the existing Foster Youth Services Program and provide adequate funding for continued support.

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- Develop a statewide database for collecting and sharing health and education information and Outcomes data on foster youth.
- Expand the Countywide Programs to provide services to all foster youth with additional funding.

The Linkages Project (Linkages)

The Linkages Project was implemented in 2000 with Stuart Foundation funding for the initial four-year initiative to develop a coordinated services approach between CalWORKs and CWS agencies. In 2005, a small grant from Stuart foundation allowed the grant to include additional counties. By coordinating programs that strengthen child abuse prevention efforts and assist families in achieving self-sufficiency, California's children and families gain better service and improved outcomes. Linkages was continued in 2007 with funding for 5 years from an (ACF) Child Welfare/TANF demonstration grant and matching funds from the CDSS.

The focus of Linkages is to promote collaboration between CWS and CalWORKs through the coordination of the case plan and service delivery, and engaging parents in the joint planning process.

In California, most counties have children and families who are both involved in the CalWORKs and CWS programs. Parents must navigate between two different systems, which often reflect conflicting requirements and timeframes in order to satisfy requirements in both programs. Linkages improves the services coordination through joint case planning and prevents duplication of efforts, maximizes funding and resources to better serve clients accessing both systems. For example, Linkages helps to engage CalWORKs families faced with multiple barriers to meeting their work participation requirements. These same barriers, such as substance abuse, mental health issues and domestic violence, are often identified as barriers to keeping children safe in their homes. By developing joint case plans to address these barriers, both workers will be coordinating the resources and services to better serve the children and family, avoid duplication of services, and possibly prevent the need for removal.

There are currently 30 counties in California that participate in the Linkages initiative. The counties began in three different phases, 2002, 2005 and 2007 and thus, are at different levels of implementation. There were 12 pioneer counties that were part of the implementation phase and 17 counties signed on in 2005 during phase II development. In 2006, California was among five states awarded a five-year Federal grant to continue, further enhance and evaluate the project in the existing counties as well as expand to additional counties. A formal statewide evaluation of the Project is underway by Harder+Company Community Research.

Obtaining outcome data has been one of the most challenging aspects of Linkages. The separate data systems for child welfare and CalWORKs have made it difficult to pull data from the multiple existing data systems on these families that are clients of both child welfare and CalWORKs. Data worksheets were developed to help counties pull data from the separate systems; however, it is a labor intensive effort and most counties do not have the resources to devote to this evaluation. The small amount of client data received from the counties make it difficult to draw firm conclusions about outcomes.

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As part of the evaluation component of the grant, the Linkages Evaluation Team is collecting data to assess the impact of the Linkages initiative on the well-being of children and families being served by California's Child Welfare and CalWORKs program offices. Linkages counties were asked to complete a data worksheet related to nine client-level outcomes. Five of the outcomes related to the Child Welfare System and four were related to the CalWORKs system. The outcomes were selected to evaluate whether the delivery of coordinated services, such as Linkages, improves client outcomes in comparison to clients who have not received coordinated services. The outcomes for Child Welfare are percent of children with a substantiated recurrence (at 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months), percent of children not removed from home with substantiated recurrence (at 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months), percent of families that achieve reunification, time to reunification, and percent of children who do not re-enter foster care. The outcomes for CalWORKs are percent of parents who have CalWORKs sanctions resolved, amount of monthly cash grant (without sanctions), amount of parents' monthly earnings and wages, and length of time parents receive cash aid. We look forward to the results of the evaluation at the completion of the grant.

The Project provides reports to ACF every six months to report on progress per the Grant's requirement. We have met all goals so far that were set as part of the grant, such as providing semi-annual Conferences, providing peer learning opportunities via the Linkages Intranet, creating guidelines to advance coordinated case planning, providing technical assistance via individual county calls, and holding topic of interest and peer cluster calls.

Linkages has continued to support the California counties' implementation of Linkages through semi-annual conferences. An annual statewide convening is held in Sacramento along with regional convenings in the North, South, and the Bay Area to promote local peer sharing. The Statewide Convening brings together approximately 150 staff from Linkages counties throughout the state while the regional gatherings bring together approximately 40 people each, providing a smaller peer sharing experience. Other supports to the county include: Monthly Topic of Interest calls, Monthly Newsletters, a dedicated Linkages Intranet site, and the RTAs ability to provide county specific trainings throughout the year.

State, county and CFPIC staff comprise a Statewide Linkages Oversight Committee, which monitors the implementation process and outcome evaluation as well as addresses relevant policy and ongoing sustainability issues of Linkages. This committee meets approximately once per month.

Accomplishments for the evaluation include the first year of the multi-year case study with three Linkages counties. Case study visits provide an opportunity for in-depth exploration of the county's program, involving tours of facilities and meetings with leadership, supervisors, data tracking staff, and line staff. Three surveys will be administered annually.

Another accomplishment is the dissemination of the *Family Engagement Guideline to Participatory Case Planning* through the state's ACIN that was sent to all agency directors throughout the state and was the focus of the Statewide convening. These guidelines were developed by Linkages coordinators and project staff to provide the framework for the coordination of these two service programs.

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A very important accomplishment is the development of communication tools that will address the barriers to implementation that Linkages Coordinators have shared during the course of the project. The tools include a video with staff and families that addresses the question of “why collaborate?” and will be ready by the 2010 Fall convening.

For the evaluation, the evaluator, Harder + Company, completed analyses of the survey Instruments and these were published in the monthly newsletter.

- *Implementation Survey.* Linkages counties were surveyed using an online survey instrument to determine their levels of Linkages implementation and to understand different ways each county implements the program.
- *Staff Survey.* The Staff Survey is a paper-based survey provided to line staff who works directly with Linkages families to solicit their input and experiences with their county’s Linkages program.
- *Organizational Change Survey.* Linkages leadership in each county will complete this survey to provide information about systemic and leadership changes related to Linkages implementation.

In addition to the survey instruments, Harder+Company developed Outcome Worksheet tools to assist counties in obtaining data for Linkages. The data will be analyzed and shared with counties.

Currently, counties are in the process of developing their 2010/2011 CSAs and Work Plans that will guide implementation at the local level. Many counties will be focusing on sustainability issues and strategies to deepen their Linkages practices.

Fairness and Equity

The eighth annual Symposium on Fairness and Equity Issues in Child Welfare Training and Education

This Symposium occurred on June 15, 2010 at the University of California, Berkeley. This event, funded by the CDSS, was facilitated by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), in partnership with the RTAs. The Symposium served as a statewide forum to create collaborative training solutions to advance fair and equitable practice and policy in child welfare. The keynote speaker, Carl C. Bell, M.D., F.A.C.Psych., presented community-based prevention and implementation research regarding the power of cultivating protective factors in children and youth to surmount risk factors associated with adversity.

TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE WAIVER DEMONSTRATION CAPPED ALLOCATION PROJECT (CAP)

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP) is completing the end of the third year of implementation for the five-year project. The two participating counties are Alameda and Los Angeles counties. In operating the CAP, counties have the opportunity to reinvest their foster care savings to create a more responsive array of services and supports for families typically funded using Title IV-B funds. Implementation began on July 1, 2007 and will end on June 30, 2012.

The specific goals of the CAP are to:

- Improve the array of services for children and families and engage families through a more individualized approach that emphasizes family involvement.
- Increase child safety without an over-reliance on out-of-home care.
- Improve permanency outcomes and timelines.
- Improve child and family well-being.

The California Federal Terms and Conditions were amended on September 29, 2009, by the ACF as a result of the CDSS request made in March 2009 to adjust the federal capped allocation due to the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The CAP Interim Evaluation Report covering the period of July 1, 2007 through December 30, 2009 was submitted to ACF on April 12, 2010.

The CAP Interim Report focused primarily on the Process Study. The Alameda and Los Angeles CWS agencies and Probation Departments view their participation and the CAP flexible funding as having had a positive impact for the children, youth and families they serve. The flexible funding has allowed them to serve families previously ineligible for services and to expand preventative services and evidenced-based services that meet more families' needs without the reliance on out-of-home care.

In addition, the Children's Bureau federal technical assistance provider, James Bell Associates, conducted a site visit in April 2010. The site visit included focus groups and interviews with the CDSS, the Alameda and Los Angeles CWS agencies and Probation Departments. This was one of five site visits conducted in flexible funding waiver states and a report of findings will be available in the fall of 2010.

Casey Family Programs has been working with Alameda and Los Angeles counties to implement and evaluate system improvements that safely reduce the number of children in foster care and support child and family stability under the CAP. Casey supports county CAP implementation both financially and with strategic consultation for administration, programming and local evaluation efforts.

Highlighted implementation to date in the two CAP counties is provided below:

Safety: Over the first two years of the CAP, the Alameda County Department of Children and Family Services implemented strategies that are expansions of pre-waiver activities, strategies

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that are part of other reform initiatives, or newly created innovative programs and services. One program that the county has expanded to enhance safety is the Alternative Road to Safety Prevention Program, an alternative response program providing intensive home-based family support services.

Under the CAP in year two, Los Angeles County has funded the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project, which is a comprehensive, strengths-based child abuse and neglect prevention system. This system is a collaboration between the County's public child welfare system and community-based organizations.

Permanency: The Los Angeles Probation Department has used flexible funding under the waiver to expand the use of two evidence-based practices to treat youth and families. These two practices, Functional Family Therapy and Multi-Systemic Therapy are empirically researched practices that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing the rates of out-of-home placements and increasing improved parent/caregiver interactions, thus supporting permanency for probation youth.

Well-Being: The Alameda County Probation Department has focused on strategies to reduce the need for out-of-home placement that included the development of the Screening for Out-of-Home Service Committee. This strategy established a review and approval process for preventing unnecessary out-of-home placement and increased utilization of alternative dispositions for Family Preservation, community probation, and enhanced community-based programs for probation youth and families.

Both counties have identified reinvestment strategies for the upcoming Project Year Four, with a focus on improved reunification, reduced re-entry, and after-care services.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)

The CDSS continues to collaborate with the self identified representatives of approximately 109 federally recognized California tribes, as well as the approximately 50 tribes that are not currently recognized. As described in this section, the collaboration around the identification of ICWA issues and working together to resolve them is primarily done through some of the work of the ICWA Workgroup and its various subcommittees. Through the Workgroup and the various subcommittees, input has been provided to CDSS on the development of policy for the implementation of Assembly Bill 1325, on the drafting of guidelines to counties regarding the use of expert witnesses, on the development of training for social workers, and on the drafting of regulations. Members of the Workgroup have also provided training along with CDSS staff at conferences and training events.

However, there remain challenges. Obtaining accurate data for Indian children continues to be a challenge, as children who are identified as having multiple ethnicities may not necessarily be identified by the CWS/CMS system as being Native American. In order to better capture data for Indian children, a system change request has been submitted to make changes to the CWS/CMS. However, these changes will not be made for more than a year. At this time the system indicates that for Indian children placed in out-of-home care, approximately 15 percent fewer children were placed in foster care during the last FFY than in the previous year, which follows the state trend as a whole. While approximately 35 percent of those children were placed in the home of a relative, about the same percentage were placed in the home of a non-Indian, non-relative. Some of the reasons for this are due to a lack of Indian foster homes, although some tribal ICWA workers/advocates note that they have had difficulties in getting some county social workers to place in tribally approved homes. While the CDSS has previously issued ACLs that provided policy direction on this issue, it continues to be a topic of discussion.

In order to have data to measure performance in ICWA compliance, a request was made to AOC to review cases for the past two years as a starting point to determine how many child welfare cases were contested and how many of those cases had ICWA issues. This information will now be tracked over time. It is hoped that this data can be used to help measure the effectiveness of the training and technical assistance on ICWA that have been provided to the courts.

The CDSS has also worked to improve ICWA compliance through the provision of training, technical assistance, the issuance of policy directives on such topics as placement preferences, the tribe's right to intervene in juvenile court proceedings, the issuance on data entry instructions, etc.

The activities and projects discussed below further describe the measures that the CDSS has engaged in to ensure compliance with ICWA.

CFSD ICWA Workgroup

The ICWA Workgroup was formed in July 2002. It continues to expand its membership which now consists of 90 tribal ICWA workers and advocates, 57 county child welfare and probation representatives, 19 CDSS staff and 35 representatives from other state agencies and interested

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parties. The CDSS utilizes the ICWA Workgroup as a means of consulting with tribes on issues related to child welfare.

The ICWA Workgroup continues to meet bi-monthly to identify ICWA issues/problems that exist and develop recommendations and solutions for tribes, counties and the state. The agenda for ICWA workgroup meetings is set in accordance with issues and topics which emerge from discussions in the workgroup, or in discussions that occur as the CDSS staff consult with tribal and county representatives throughout the state. Significant topics of discussion this year included tribal customary adoptions, tribally approved homes, expert witnesses, ICWA training, etc. As a result, the following are some of the key accomplishments of the Workgroup this reporting period:

- AB 1325 was passed, permitting Tribal Customary Adoption in California which will qualify families to receive AAP. State policies regarding permanency and adoption are largely in conflict with tribal customs. The Permanency for Children and Youth Subcommittee was established by the CDSS in the spring of 2008 to address permanency issues for Indian children and youth in California in a way that incorporates traditional cultural values and customs and meets Title IV-E requirements. As a result of the interest of the Subcommittee and Workgroup's recognition of tribal customary adoption in California, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians sponsored AB 2736 in February of 2008. Although that bill died, it was reintroduced in 2009 as AB 1325. There was strong support for AB 1325, which included support from the CWDA. The bill subsequently passed and was signed into law. It will be effective on July 1, 2010, and a number of subcommittees have been formed to address such implementation issues as regulations, modification of forms, training, etc. The initial ACL on AB 1325, ACL 10-17, was issued on March 24, 2010.
- The Expert Witness Subcommittee was created to consider the need to develop guidelines to counties regarding the use of expert witnesses as required by ICWA. ICWA requires the testimony of a Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) in any state proceeding prior to the placement of an Indian child in foster care or prior to the termination of parental rights. The Subcommittee's purpose was to review such areas as the requirements of QEW in ICWA; address finding QEWs; address the qualifications that should be considered; and look at the issue of payments to QEWs. The Subcommittee reviewed materials from a number of different sources and an ACIN was drafted. Comment was solicited from the Workgroup as well as other stakeholders, such as CWDA and county social workers, and the ACIN, number I-40-10, was issued on April 29, 2010.
- The ICWA Training Subcommittee reviewed training curriculums for training county ICWA workers and developed a training curriculum for tribal ICWA workers. California has provided training to county social workers via CalSWEC and its RTAs. The basic curriculum, developed in collaboration with representatives of the ICWA Workgroup, was titled "ICWA 101." The training included an overview of the ICWA, the historical context of ICWA and the basic ICWA requirements. The Subcommittee reviewed the more advanced curriculum with a draft title of "ICWA 102", which was developed to give county social workers and probation officers more "how to" tools for understanding and implementing the provisions of ICWA. The curriculum provides for more in-depth understanding of historical trauma to

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Native Americans caused by federal and state policies that removed Indian children from their parents and tribal community; the intent of ICWA regarding “active efforts,” working with Tribes in addressing local policies and practices to more effectively serve Indian children and families. It was felt that more tribal input was needed, therefore, the workgroup is increasing attention to this issue. In addition, some of the RTAs have already developed or were using existing ICWA curricula. The CalSWEC is assisting by collecting and reviewing these curricula for common elements. The Subcommittee will determine the elements that training for county social workers should include and recommend that any curricula used contain those elements.

- The ICWA Training Subcommittee is addressing the expressed desire of the ICWA Workgroup that curricula be developed to train Tribal ICWA Advocates and Social Workers regarding the provisions of ICWA, including the tribe’s rights and role per ICWA; understanding the child welfare system and the courts and the availability of resources to assist tribes in responding to ICWA issues. The Subcommittee worked to collect examples of any curricula that already exists in California to review for common elements. To ensure adequate tribal input, the annual ICWA Conference was used as a vehicle to collect input. The Subcommittee is also considering the use of surveys to gather additional input.
- An additional subcommittee was established to review draft regulations to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 678. The regulations are proposed modifications to the MPP Division 31. A number of meetings were held to review the proposed regulations and input was received from tribal representatives and the CDSS staff. A few issues are still outstanding, most of which are legal issues requiring revision of the proposed language. Once the regulations package has been fully drafted, the CDSS staff will submit to the CDSS Office of Regulation Development for public posting. The regulations process includes a public review period as well as a public hearing so that there is ample opportunity for input before the regulations are adopted.

Tribal/State Title IV-E Agreements

The CDSS is continuing to facilitate the negotiations of tribal/state Title IV-E agreements which will allow for the pass-through of Title IV-E funds to California tribes. These funds will provide tribes with foster care funding for Indian children. Further, the CDSS will continue to assist tribes as necessary and as requested, to access direct funding through the PL 110-351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions bill.

Tribes determine what programs they want to offer under a tribal/state Title IV-E agreement. These include programs such as Chafee, educational vouchers, etc. Once the tribe has an idea of what services they are interested in offering, then the planning of an agreement begins.

On March 14, 2007, the CDSS and the Karuk Tribe of California signed the first ever tribal-state agreement in California. The CDSS staff continues to provide training and technical assistance to staff of the Karuk Tribe for the implementation of the agreement. The CDSS and the Karuk Tribe secured technical assistance through ACF and the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) to provide assistance to the Karuk tribe in the development of the tribe’s CWS Plan. The Tribe’s CWS Plan was approved by ACF on November

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6, 2009, and was effective July 1, 2009. The CDSS has provided the Karuk Tribe with training on fiscal claiming procedures, Title IV-E eligibility screening and data reporting requirements. The CDSS continues to provide training and technical assistance regarding child welfare practice to ensure Title IV-E compliance.

The Yurok Tribe initiated negotiations of a Tribal/State Title IV-E Agreement in August 2007. The agreement was signed effective May 28, 2010. The tribe will now develop its child welfare services plan and when completed it will be submitted to ACF for approval. As they move closer to implementing the agreement, the CDSS will be providing the Yurok Tribe with training on fiscal claiming procedures, Title IV-E eligibility screening and data reporting requirements among other topics.

As reported previously, with the signing of the Karuk agreement, and now the Yurok agreement, the CDSS experienced an increased interest from other tribes in pursuing such Tribal/state agreements. With the passage of PL 110-351, tribes, the consortium of tribes and other tribal organizations have also been given the option of negotiating a Title IV-E agreement directly with the federal government effective October 1, 2009. Tribal entities generally are awaiting more detailed information on the federal agreements, as they consider whether to pursue a Title IV-E agreement with the state or with the federal government. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California was awarded a federal planning grant to prepare to negotiate a federal/Tribal agreement and the Tribe has been offered technical assistance from the CDSS as they move towards an agreement.

ICWA Projects

Annual ICWA Conference

The CDSS continues to support the annual statewide ICWA Conference hosted by a volunteer tribe or group of tribes. The ICWA Workgroup views this activity as a priority in order to promote improved ICWA compliance. The 17th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference was held June 21-22, 2010 in Pala, California. It was hosted by the Pala Band of the Luiseno Mission Indians. Further details regarding the specific workshops and presentations offered at the conference can be found on page 172 of the Child and Family Services Training Plan.

Indian Child Welfare Act Initiative with the Administrative Office of the Courts

Effective December 2005, the CDSS entered into an interagency agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to create the ICWA Initiative. The ICWA Initiative was effective from 2007 through 2010, and given the successful partnership between the CDSS and the AOC, is in the process of renewal to gain an additional three years. The ICWA Initiative provides educational offerings; curriculum development; technical assistance; statewide resources; and tribal engagement on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and teen dating violence.

These services are made available to stakeholders who work in family, juvenile, and probate cases. Stakeholders include judicial officers, clerks, attorneys, social workers, and probation officers. Services are tailored to meet the needs of stakeholder groups, individual local court systems, or regions.

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Educational Offerings

Since its beginning, the Initiative has provided educational offerings which include hosting regional ICWA conferences throughout the state; providing over twenty county specific facilitated trainings for counties throughout California on topics identified either by the ICWA workgroup or self-identified as needing training on ICWA. These were presented at over 21 conferences for child welfare and tribal professionals throughout the state.

In addition, ICWA Initiative staff has collaborated with colleagues in the AOC who work in the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) on several ICWA broadcasts. All of these programs are now available on DVD for courts, tribes, county agencies and others who wish to use them in their trainings. Over the past several years, ICWA Initiative staff has provided direct ICWA training to over 1500 individuals including social workers, probation officers, court staff, judicial officers, attorneys, tribal workers and others.

ICWA staff continues to work with CJER to update and revise the ICWA Bench Handbook produced by CJER and distributed to Judges and others throughout California. They have also worked on the development of ICWA curriculum which will soon be completed. The curriculum will include an online ICWA inquiry and noticing course currently in development by CJER; a module including training on active efforts, case planning and placement of an advanced ICWA curriculum soon to be launched by the ICWA Initiative; the development of a variety of tools for courts and child welfare professionals to comply with ICWA and SB 678; and the drafting of Rules and forms related to ICWA and SB 678, and more recently to AB 1325, the Tribal Customary Adoption legislation.

Educational workshops have been provided by a broad-based group of subject matter experts on a statewide, regional and local basis. This Initiative continues to impact not only the preservation of connections for Indian children but also the achievement of permanency, as defined by the Indian community. Further details regarding the specific trainings and presentations provided during SFY 2009/10 can be found in the Child and Family Services Training Plan section of this document.

Curriculum Development

During the spring of 2009, the ICWA Initiative hired an education specialist as a consultant to develop advanced ICWA curriculum in a variety of topics including active efforts and case planning. With the input of tribal representatives, ICWA Initiative staff and other experts, the consultant has nearly completed a comprehensive four hour curriculum dealing with these elements in ICWA cases.

During the spring of 2010, the ICWA Initiative hired another educational specialist as a consultant to develop advanced ICWA curriculum on the remaining ICWA subject areas identified including modules relating to:

- Inquiry and Notice.
- Jurisdictional and Procedural Issues (including jurisdiction, tribal transfer or intervention; waivers from Indian parents/ custodians and appointment of counsel).

- Evidentiary Issues (including standards of proof, required findings, and qualified expert witness testimony).
- Remedies and Post Trial Issues.

Technical Assistance

As part of the ICWA Initiative, the project staff provides technical assistance to all stakeholders and fields questions relating to federal requirements under ICWA and state requirements under the state statutes and rules of court that implement ICWA. The staff of the ICWA Initiative at the AOC provided technical assistance to a wide range of individuals involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems including:

- Judges in the state juvenile, family and probate guardianship courts.
- Clerks and other court staff.
- Social Workers.
- Probation Officers.
- Attorneys, including County Counsel and attorneys representing parents and children.
- Tribal representatives from both inside and outside California, including tribal ICWA and social service workers, native service providers and tribal court judges.
- Individuals involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including caregivers and extended family of Indian children.

The project staff has provided technical assistance to several counties seeking to adopt local rules or protocols to implement ICWA in delinquency proceedings. In addition to the technical assistance provided to improve compliance locally, project staff has also been involved in helping to design and implement ICWA compliance in the new CCMS, a major initiative of the judicial branch. Also, project staff has worked closely with the CDSS to provide input into the development of a proposed ACIN on ICWA compliance in adoption proceedings and staff has taken the lead in drafting the necessary revisions to Judicial Council rules and forms required to comply with the mandates of AB 1325, California's tribal customary adoption statute.

The ICWA Initiative staff provides a wide array of technical assistance including responding to individual calls from judges, court staff, social workers, probation officers, county counsel, private attorneys, tribal representatives and individuals throughout the state on issues involving the ICWA. The issues include questions about ICWA applicability, rules, forms, resources and procedures. Depending on the question staff will refer callers to the appropriate provisions of ICWA, Welfare and Institutions Code, Family or Probate Code, Judicial Council rules or forms, case law, listing of expert witnesses, Native American resources, or other resource as appropriate.

In addition, staff conducts file reviews upon request and review draft ICWA protocols, policies and procedures. Promising practices and protocols relating to ICWA compliance are collected from local county collaboratives focusing on ICWA and can be used to assist courts and others to establish new collaboratives or promote existing collaborative. Finally, staff conduct ICWA self-assessments to help courts assess where ICWA compliance may be lacking and to target

training needs. A self-assessment tool was sent to all the courts throughout California and additional self-assessments have been completed with San Diego and Merced Counties.

Part of providing technical assistance is the development of job aids for stakeholders. Project staff continues to update the judicial handbook, the descriptions of available services to Indian children and families, a qualified ICWA expert witness list and job aids for use by social service departments, probation departments, other agencies and judicial officers in ensuring ICWA compliance. All technical assistance resources can be found at the link below:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/jrta-ICWAResources.htm>.

Resources

The ICWA Initiative's statewide clearinghouse of Native American resources in the past year and has an interface which enables users to search services by type and region in California. Below is the link to the Web site:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/ICWA/index.cfm>.

The California Dependency Online Guide Web site also went live this past year. It can be accessed at the court info website by typing [courtinfo.ca.gov/dependencyonlineguide](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/dependencyonlineguide) or the following link: <http://168.75.202.29/>. Because the website is a free resource open to all child welfare professionals, it can serve as a clearinghouse of ICWA resources and trainings. All ICWA job aides and trainings are posted to this website.

ICWA requires that agencies and others seeking to make a foster care placement or terminate parental rights to an Indian child provide proof of "active efforts." These active efforts must be culturally appropriate. Courts, agency staff and others with the obligation to provide "active efforts" may be unaware of the culturally appropriate, native specific resources which may be available. The purpose of the statewide clearinghouse of Native American resources is to provide a central, comprehensive listing of services, resources and programs which are available to and tailored for Native American parents and children. The goal is to ensure that the active efforts requirement of ICWA is met and that Native American parents, children and families receive culturally appropriate services that meet their needs.

Tribal Engagement on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Teen Dating Violence

In collaboration with others at the AOC, project staff is working on the Native American Communities Justice Project – Beginning the Dialogue: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence. With funding from the Office of Emergency Services, the AOC launched a short-term project designed to enhance access to and improve the administration of justice for Native American victims of family violence. Drawing on community expertise and guidance, this project engages Native American communities in identifying needs relating to family violence. The project involves collaborating with tribes and community members to gather information and develop strategies to address the needs of Native American victims of family violence.

In November 2009, the AOC established, as part of the Center for Families, Children and the Courts, a Tribal Projects Unit. The purpose of this unit is to serve as liaison to tribal communities in California and to assist the Judicial Branch with the development of policies,

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positions, and programs to ensure the highest quality of justice and service for California's Native American communities in cases relating to ICWA, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. For more information on this unit, please visit the website at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/TribalProjectUnit.htm>.

One of the first activities of the AOC's Tribal Projects Unit involved convening a meeting of tribal court judges and state court judges. On December 21, 2009, the Chief Justice of the California Courts, tribal court judges, and other state court leaders met to discuss issues of family violence and the role their judiciaries could play to address many of the themes raised in this report. The result of this historic meeting was a firm commitment on the part of those who attended to continue forging positive judicial relationships and working on priority areas of mutual concern and shared interest. Specifically, the tribal and state court leaders agreed to the following scope of on-going work:

- The enforcement and recognition of orders/judgments relating to family law, civil procedure, juvenile law, domestic violence.
- Addressing concurrent jurisdictional issues (i.e., determining, sharing, and coordinating jurisdiction, transferring cases, and access to records between jurisdictions).
- Developing and sharing educational resources.
- Undertaking joint rules and forms development and revision, as well as providing assistance to adapt state Judicial Council forms for use by interested tribal courts.
- Sharing grant resources.
- Addressing the lack of tribal court access to data.

With AOC staff support, these tribal and state court leaders have continued this work together, and the results have been positive. Short-term achievable steps have already been taken. Tribal court judges have access to all AOC educational resources through a secured website maintained for state court judges. Tribal court judges have access to Judicial Council forms and technical assistance from the AOC to adapt those forms for their own courts. Tribal courts have access to a list of grants maintained by the AOC. Tribal and state court judges are developing presentations to showcase their partnerships at the local level and to present on court protocols to mutually enforce orders. These presentations, along with a presentation on PL 280 were featured at the AOC's annual conference, Beyond the Bench, in June 2010.

Some of the specific activities of the Tribal Projects Unit relating to education, technical assistance, curriculum development and self-help, include presenting at meetings and conferences; preparing a request for proposals to develop curriculum for tribal advocates to navigate the state court system in the area of domestic violence; and preparing and posting a request for proposals to provide mini-grants of up to \$4,500 to local state courts in three California communities with high concentration of Native Americans and few community legal programs.

In addition, the Tribal Projects Unit provided technical assistance to tribal courts, beginning with a meeting on December 21, 2009. At the meeting, the tribal and state court judges requested an on-going collaboration and the Chief Justice agreed that the tribal and state judiciaries should form a permanent collaboration, with focus on tribal/state judiciary

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cooperation, to address areas of mutual concern. The tribal/state court dialogue at that meeting resulted in a firm commitment on the part of those who attended to continue forging positive judicial relationships and working on priority areas. Following the December meeting, the participants requested a conference call to further discuss and make progress on these priority areas. A second meeting was held on January 11, 2010, and participants approved an outreach approach to tribal chairs and memo with a nomination form to request tribal court judge participation in the coalition. Council forms were identified for adaptation by tribal courts. Access to a secure website for state court judges was granted to tribal court judges. A working group was established to develop PL 280 curriculum, and a tribal court survey was developed to obtain data to explore the possibility of having tribal court orders entered in the California Court Protective Order Registry database.

Technical assistance was provided to the Bishop Paiute Tribal Court's new supervised visitation program on January 27, 2010 and to the Yurok tribe regarding adopting judicial forms. The Bishop Paiute Tribal Court was provided brochures, publications and grant opportunity information. The AOC staff consulted with the Yurok Tribal Court and obtained software for the Tribal Court, trained their court staff on how to adapt the forms. The result is that the Yurok Tribal Court is now in a position to create and adapt forms for tribal courts in the Northern California Tribal Courts Coalition. The AOC staff has received specific requests from tribal courts to adapt domestic violence, child support, and guardianship Judicial Council forms.

Access was provided to tribal court judges to a state court judges' secure website called *Serranus*. On *Serranus*, tribal court judges have access to all educational programs and materials provided to state court judges. Fact sheets were prepared describing how to access the technical assistance on collaborative court principles and supervised visitation and will be posted to the public website and shared with the tribal court judges. A number of informational brochures were also provided relating to criminal protective orders, domestic violence and child custody mediation for self-represented litigants. To see these brochures, visit the website at the following link: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/equalaccess.

Other Activities of Interest

The Family Development Matrix (FDM) provides an integrated family assessment tool for case management and outcomes evaluation in family service networks and ICWA tribal programs in California. Its primary purpose is to provide family support staff in tribal and non-profit agencies with the capacity to use the assessment and analysis of family outcome measurement data to set goals with families, record agency interventions, track worker case management and family participation activities that contribute to improving family outcomes. For a further description of FDM, please see the CAPTA report section located on pages 101-102 of this report.

The FDM has been implemented in tribal organizations in three counties: Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. In Lake County, five tribes have been trained on the use of FDM: Robinson Rancheria, the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Big Valley Rancheria, the Elem Pomo Colony Tribe, and Middletown Rancheria. Three of the tribes are currently using the program. Lake County included the tribes in implementing their DR

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system in 2007 and it was a natural progression to invite the tribes to be trained and use the FDM. The tribes and the family resource agencies (Lake Family Resource Center and Healthy Start) meet monthly to discuss the implementation of DR and FDM, integration of services and strategies for working with families.

After receiving a referral from one of the ICWA workers, an assessment is conducted with the referred family member(s). A coordinator meets with the worker to assess the family strengths, issues and together they develop an empowerment plan. The worker then meets with the family to set goals and provides services and referrals.

The four ICWA workers report that families like the empowering approach. The coordinator is the "glue" that facilitates the tribes sharing information as needs arise for families. The ICWA workers are now beginning to use data for their reports.

The FDM has also recently been implemented in the Indian Child and Family Preservation Program, which serves families in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. The Indian Child and Family Preservation Program serves children and families from the Dry Creek Rancheria, Coyote Valley Tribe, and Stewarts Point Rancheria.

Coordination with Tribes that have Title IV-B Plans

Currently, CDSS notifies the ICWA Workgroup when California's APSR has been approved and posted to our web site. Currently we are working with ACF to have the tribes that receive Title IV-B funding from ACF send us copies of their APSR. We will also send each tribe the link to our web site with California's plan and annual reports.

Coordination with Tribes Regarding the Section 422 Protections for Children

In 1953, Congress enacted PL 280, which required several states, including California, to assume criminal and some civil jurisdiction over all or part of Indian country within these states. PL 280 did not eliminate tribal jurisdiction. Although states were delegated criminal and civil jurisdiction, that jurisdiction remained concurrent with some aspects of inherent tribal jurisdiction. However, not all tribes have developed courts and so not all tribes exercise their jurisdiction.

There continue to be very few Indian children in California under tribal jurisdiction, as only a small number of tribes have both tribal courts and social services departments that could provide necessary services; partly due to the size of the tribes and the lack of adequate funding to the tribes for these services. For those tribes that do take jurisdiction, most often the initial contact regarding a family is made to the local child welfare agency who then contacts the tribe to allow them to decide if they want to take jurisdiction.

Many tribes and county child welfare agencies have developed protocols whereby they work together to provide child welfare services. A number of counties and tribes have convened ICWA roundtables which meet on a regular basis to discuss issues relative to the provision of child welfare services and how to better protect children. Some counties contact the tribal social services worker when an emergency response call is received allowing for both parties to respond to the family. Other tribes have services that can be provided early in the case to allow

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for the children and families to remain together. Counties are responsible for applying Section 422 protections including the care and supervision of tribal children that remain under the state/county's jurisdiction. For tribes that enter into a Title IV-E agreement with the state and assume responsibility for the care and supervision of tribal children, the tribe is responsible for applying Section 422(b)(8) protections for those children, including the six month periodic review, twelve-month permanency hearings, reunification services, services to achieve other permanency goals, pre-placement preventative services, etc.

The CDSS Independent Living Program (ILP) staff attends the ICWA Workgroup meetings quarterly. The CDSS ILP staff also collaborates with a tribal Indian Child Welfare Specialist, who also attends the monthly CWDA/ILP Subcommittee meetings, as well the ICWA Workgroup. The ICWA specialist serves as the liaison between the CDSS and ICWA on tribal issues. The ILP Subcommittee discusses issues impacting eligibility, barriers to receiving services, as well as working to come up with possible processes to remove the barriers.

After the passage of PL 110-351: *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*, the California Legislature also passed SB 770, which included more explicit language regarding the requirement that California negotiate Title IV-E agreements in good faith.

To ensure that tribal youth receive fair and equitable treatment while receiving ILP and other services, the Foster Care Ombudsman's Office advocates for Tribal Youth throughout California to resolve issues and complaints.

ICWA Workgroup Tribal Representatives and/or ICWA Advocates

The CDSS utilizes the ICWA Workgroup as a means of consulting with tribes. The individuals listed here may be members of a tribe, employed by a tribe or tribal organization, or otherwise work as an ICWA advocate. Most are tribal social workers, ICWA workers, ICWA advocates and some may also be tribal council members. However, these participants are not necessarily appointed by their tribes to represent them. In addition to the participants listed, there are also county and state ICWA Workgroup participants, some of whom may be tribal members, but represent their county or state on the Workgroup.

California Department of Social Services
INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) WORKGROUP
TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR ICWA ADVOCATES

Susan Alvarez Pit River Tribe	Annette Chihuahua, ICWA Coordinator Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Lisa Ames, Manager Social Services Department Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk Indians	Alex Cleghorn, Acting Directing Attorney California Indian Legal Services
Penny Arciniaga, Tribal Office Manager Buena Vista Rancheria	Kimberly Cluff, Attorney at Law Forman & Associates
Angelina Arroyo, Council Secretary/ICWA Rep. Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	Geni Cowan, PhD., Senior Associate Eagle Blue Associates, Inc.
April Attebury, Tribal Court Administrator Karuk Tribal Court	Cole Cross, ICWA Advocate Yurok Tribe Social Services Department
Glenn Basconcillo, TANF Director Owens Valley Career Development Center Tribal TANF Program	Nancy Currie, MA, LMFT Director of Social Services Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Tribal Social Services
Marce Becerra, ICWA Advocate Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Patricia Davis, Tribal Council Delegate Santa Rosa Rancheria – Tachi-Yokut Tribe
Robert Bohrer Yurok Tribal Attorney's Office	
Ann Louise Bonnitto, J.D. California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)	Cindy Dawson, Case Manager Morongo Band of Mission Indians Child and Family Services
Paulie Boynton Community and Family Services Social Worker Smith River Rancheria	Laila DeRouen, ICWA Representative Indian Child & Family Preservation Program
Silvia Burley, Chairperson California Valley Miwok Tribe	Liz Elgin DeRouen, ICWA Representative Indian Child & Family Preservation Program
Karen Cahill, Social Services Director Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria	Stephanie Dolan, Attorney at Law Law Office of Stephanie Dolan
Roman Carrillo, Jr., Tribal Chair Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	Cheryl Douglas, ICWA Liaison Washoe Tribe Native TANF Program
Shonta Chaloux, Executive Director Soboba Tribal TANF	Joni Drake (North Fork Mono/Choinumni) San Joaquin Site Manager California Tribal TANF Partnership

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Christine Dukatz, ICWA Representative
Manchester Point Arena Tribe

Sara Dutschke, Attorney at Law
Karshmer & Associates (for Morongo)

Tara Edmiston, Legal Secretary/Billing Manager
California Indian Legal Services

Mike Edwards
Karuk Tribe of California

Maria Garcia, Social Worker
Pala Band of Mission Indians

Loleta Garfield, MSW, ICWA Director
Family & Social Services Department
Tule River Tribal Council

Maureen Geary
Maier, Pfeffer, Kim and Geary, LLP

Shari Ghalayini, Tribal Administrator
Enterprise Rancheria

Nanette L. Gledhill, MSW
Gledhill Expert Witness & Consulting Svcs/Cal-ICWA

Rachelle Goldenberg, MSW
ICWA Expert Witness/Human Svcs Consultant
Seawolf Consulting

Rhoda Hunter
Tule River Tribe

Vevila Hussey, MSW
ICWA Expert/Consultant Services

Elaine Jeff, Tribal Council Delegate
Santa Rosa Rancheria – Tachi-Yokut Tribe

Cynthia Jefferson, ICWA Coordinator
Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians/ICWA Dept

Lavon Kent, ICWA Director
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

Karan Kolb, ICWA Manager
Indian Health Council, Inc.

Monique La Chappa
Campo Kumeyaay Nation

Lorraine Laiwa, Director
Indian Child & Family Preservation Program

Tammy Lapthorne
Susanville Indian Rancheria

Marsha Lee
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Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California

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Petra MacDonald, Health Coordinator
Lytton Rancheria

Louis Madrigal, Executive Director
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Art Martinez, PhD
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Mike McGee, ICWA Representative
Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians

Francine McKinley, ICWA Social Svcs Director
Mooretown Rancheria

Angela Medrano, Staff Attorney
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Margie Mejia
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Kelly Myers, Staff Attorney
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Anno Nakai, Native Community Liaison
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Mary Nevarez, ICWA Coordinator
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Linda Noel, Social Services Director
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Barbara Lee Norman, Attorney at Law
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Wah-lia Pearce
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Tribal Economic & Social Solutions Agency, Inc.

Jim Pelk, *Clinical Services Manager*
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Dorothy L. Perry, Acting Social Services Director
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Michele Porter, MSW
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Mark Radoff, Directing Attorney
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Connie Reitman-Solas, Executive Director
Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc.

Ida M. Riggins, Tribal Chairperson
Pit River Tribe

Beverly Rodriguez, ICWA Coordinator
Redwood Valley Rancheria

Elvira M. Rodriguez
Morning Star Care Consultant Services

Margaret Romero, ICWA Specialist
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Dolli Rose
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Theresa Sam, ICWA Representative
North Fork Rancheria/Tribal ICWA Office

Melissa Schlichting, Attorney at Law
Karshmer & Associates (for Morongo)

Ursula Simon, ICWA Director
Middletown Rancheria

Sam Sleezer
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Jolene Smith
Foster Care Program Administrator/Supervisor
American Indian Child Resource Center

Yolanda Smith, ICWA Advocate
Round Valley Indian Reservation

Elaine Sparks
Sherwood Valley Rancheria – ICW

Myron Standing Bear
Terilynn Steele, ICWA Program Director

Tyme Maidu Tribe - Berry Creek Rancheria

Duke Steppe, Social Services Administrator
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Yurok Tribe - Social Services Department

Angela Sundberg, ICWA Representative
Yurok Tribe

Florrine Super, Council Secretary
Karuk Tribe of California

Laura Svoboda
Legal Secretary/Intake Worker
California Indian Legal Services

Marilyn Swafford, Social Services Director
Quechan Tribe – Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

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Theressa Villa, Delegate
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ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA)

State of California

Department of Social Services

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2010 FUNDING
PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2009/10**

APPLICANT AGENCY:

State of California, Department of Social Services

Organizational Unit:

Office of Child Abuse Prevention

744 P Street, M.S. 11-82

Sacramento, California 95814

Designated Child Abuse and Neglect State Liaison Officer with NCCAN:

Linné Stout, Branch Chief

Child Protection and Family Support Branch

(916) 651-6600

Application Information Contact:

Lee Ann Kelly, Acting Chief

Office of Child Abuse Prevention

(916) 651-6960

Applicant Agency's Employer Identification Number:

94-6001347

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The CAPTA Plan is the primary prevention component of the state's CFSP. The programs, services and activities outlined in the CAPTA component are linked to the following goals and objectives of the entire CFSP plan:

Safety Outcome

Goal 1:

Children are first, and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect; they are safely maintained in their homes whenever appropriately possible and provided services to protect them.

Well Being Outcome

Goal 3:

Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate; families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs; children, youth and families are active participants in the case planning process and children receive adequate and appropriate services to meet their educational, physical and mental health needs.

It is the state's intent to ensure a clear link between CAPTA and the CFSP goals by utilizing CAPTA funds to enhance community capacity to ensure the safety of children and promote the well-being of children and families. The CDSS uses the CAPTA grant, in combination with other funds such as PSSF and state funds from the CAPIT Program and the State Children's Trust Fund to support counties, family resource centers and other community based organizations through grants, contracts and interagency agreements to promote child abuse prevention and to provide early intervention services that serve children and families within their own communities whenever possible.

When evaluating the programs that provide the services and the training necessary to ensure that there is the sufficient capacity to keep children safe and to enhance the well being of children and families, the CDSS reviews the activities and assesses the results associated with these specific programs. The following is a report on the CDSS programs and activities for FFY 2009. Discussions of future directions address FFY 2010.

There have been no substantive changes in state law that would affect California's eligibility for CAPTA funds, including those that pertain to criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and relatives.

Identification of Program Areas Selected for Improvement

Area 8: Develop and facilitate training protocols for individuals mandated to report child abuse and neglect.

Area 12: Develop and enhance the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level.

Area 14: Support and enhance collaboration among public health agencies, the child protection system and private community-based programs to provide child abuse and/or neglect prevention and treatment services (including linkages with education systems) and to address the health needs, including the mental health needs, of children identified as abused or neglected, including supporting prompt, comprehensive health and developmental evaluations for children who are the subject of substantiated child maltreatment reports.

Program Improvement Area 8: Programs, Activities, Services and Training

Mandated Reporter Training

In response to the increasing numbers of mandated reporters requiring training, the CDSS continues to focus on the availability and accessibility of mandated reporter training. Free online training is offered for all mandated reporters, and in all instances, attendance and consumer profiles are collected for this online training. The mandated reporter training is offered through a grant with the Rady Children's Hospital, Chadwick Center for Children in San Diego, since October 2009.

Objective

To provide online mandated reporter training in a user-friendly format, training of trainers, development of new content and updating of existing educational materials.

Activities/Results

The CDSS has funded online mandated reporter training since FFY 2003. Continuing education units are offered. The number of completed trainings continues to rise. Data from July 2008 through June 2009, shows that 3,424 trainings were completed. From July 2009 through January 2010, a 7-month time frame, 2,203 trainings were completed.

Rady Children's Hospital, Chadwick Center offers the basic online training program and is redesigning the website to develop a user friendly web site flow, develop website message boards, video presentations, webcasts, listservs and search features. The Center plans to update existing material to video/presentation format, develop consistent training curriculum and update the specific occupation modules. Goals for the new grantee include identifying focus groups and an advisory committee to beta test new curriculum for in-person trainings and to video and audio record for posting on the website. They will track any new legislation affecting mandated reporters and adjust training for any changes in the law.

The Chadwick Center reported that within the first 30 days of taking over the function of Mandated Reporter Training, 185 tests were taken. Of that, 96.7 percent passed the exam on the first try. Registered nurses and nurse practitioners accounted for 65 percent of those taking the training. Training modules are currently online and include a version for general audiences, as well as versions targeting nurses, clergy and educators. The Chadwick Center will now focus on incorporating modules for child care providers, Marriage and Family Therapists (both pre and post licensure), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, probation officers and social workers. Spanish versions of both the general training and the module for child care providers will also be of focus. These additional modules are anticipated to be completed and available by the end of 2010 calendar year.

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Strategies: Family Resource Center (FRC) and Family Support Program (FSP) Training and Technical Assistance

The CDSS funds a consortium of three regional training centers, Strategies, which were created to enhance the capacity of California FRCs and FSPs to provide services to strengthen families. The three non-profit organizations comprising Strategies are Youth for Change in Butte County (Region 1); Interface Children Family Services in Ventura County (Region 2) and, the Children's Bureau with offices in Los Angeles and Orange Counties (Region 3). Funding has been extended through June 30, 2011.

Strategies provides training and technical assistance in a myriad of areas including home visitation, team case management, family economic success, youth development, child abuse prevention, the Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors framework, non-profit management, public and private partnerships and community leadership. Services provided by Strategies include teleconferences, online communications, lending libraries, face-to-face group training, meeting facilitation, coaching and in person/office/phone consultation. Additionally, Strategies fosters communication among FRCs and FSPs through its comprehensive website and tri-annual publication, *Working Strategies*.

Key training objectives for the FFY 2009/10 period include:

- Provide 45 days of family strengthening training.
- Develop and implement a transfer of learning (TOL) protocol to assess the participant job performance improvement.
- Apply the TOL protocol to three existing trainings (one per region) and to all newly developed trainings.

Activities/Results

By delivering 135 training days, Strategies far exceeded its objective for conducting 45 days of family strengthening training.

FRC Core Training is designed to cover key elements of FRC operation. A substantial curriculum revision was completed during this reporting period to incorporate current practice in the field and expand training methods.

Family Economic Success and Stability (FES)

Children who live in poverty are at a high risk of abuse and neglect, yet FRC and FSP staff often have little training in addressing related economic issues. This FES training provides staff with tools and approaches to help families move towards economic success and lessen the possibilities of engagement in abusive behaviors. The training includes an orientation to Strategies' California FES resource directory of local, state and federal programs available to serve families.

Case Management

Case Management continues to meet a critical need in the family strengthening field by introducing participants to the fundamental concepts of case planning, assessment and

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evaluation. The case management curriculum was also revised during this reporting cycle to incorporate current research and practice trends.

Home Visiting

The two-day Home Visiting Essentials training utilizes the case study format to engage participants in developing basic skills. The second, more advanced, training addresses complex life issues such as domestic violence and substance use/abuse in the home.

Peer Review

Peer Review acts as a self-reflective and networking process to nurture participant trust and self-disclosure within working partnerships established between different FRCs to evaluate and strengthen the approaches and services offered by the participating FRCs. Participants develop an enhanced awareness of statewide issues affecting their agencies; gain feedback regarding the effectiveness of their agency's services; identify personal, agency and staff strengths and challenges and develop greater connections with other FRCs. Strategies also provides peer review participants with individual coaching to assist with goal attainment.

New Trainings/Training Curricula Revisions

During this reporting period, two new trainings were developed and delivered across the state; Self-Care: Caring for the Caregiver and Agency Staff Training for Increased Father Involvement. Five training curricula were revised and updated to reflect current practice and research; Protective Factors, Cultural Proficiency, Family Economic Success, Family Resource Core Training and Case Management.

Teleconference Series

As a training tool, the teleconference series is comprised of four mini-series, three calls each, for a total of twelve calls. The teleconference series is a training vehicle for program, organizational and professional development and facilitates networking among FRCs across the state, averaging fifteen participants per session.

Teleconference topics for this reporting period are:

- Mental Health Services Act
- Common Childhood Mental Disorders
- Impact of Depression
- Priority/Time Management
- Customer Service/Cultural Competency
- Dealing with Difficult Situations and People
- Recognizing and Dealing with Bullying
- Working with Female Youth
- Working with Male Youth
- Supervision: Building A Partnership for Success
- Building and Maintaining an Effective Board of Directors
- Facilitation of Meetings.

Mini- Series 1: Cultural Proficiency Learning Communities

- Collaborative Curiosity
- Confronting Inequities
- Confronting Inequities Through Collaborative Curiosity

Mini-Series 2: Family Economic Success

- Family Economic Success Introduction & Overview
- Building Relationships & Income Supports
- Workforce Development & Financial Assets

Mini-Series 3: Professional Development

- Developing a High Performance Team
- Transformative Leadership
- Harassment....Not Guilty!

Mini-Series 4: Strengthening Families, communities and Organizations

- Strengthening Families
- Family Resource Centers: Building Strong Communities
- Lobbying & Advocacy Rules for Nonprofits

Capacity-Building Events

The diverse (rural and urban) statewide training T/TA venues demonstrate the challenge of serving a state with 58 counties, as well as Strategies' commitment to meeting that challenge.

It is anticipated that approximately 3,000 people will attend trainings by September 30, 2010, with over 685 hours of technical assistance provided to agencies and organizations throughout the state. Strategies services enable organizations to develop in the areas of non-profit management, sustainability, program development, facility management and family support principles. Training topics offered during this reporting period are identified in the following table.

Table 4: List of Capacity Building Training Topics

Training Topics	
Self Care for the Care Giver The Amazing Adolescent Brain Invincible Youth Family Economic Success: For 211 Systems Introduction to Quality FRC Practice Promoting High Performance Partnerships Plan Do Study Act: A Process for Change Support Staff Skills Youth Development Vision, Mission, Leadership Identifying and Nurturing Allies and Champions Creating a Healthy Organizational Infrastructure Domestic Violence Recognizing and Integrating Diversified Resources Telling Your Story – Results Based Accountability Self Care for the Care Giver	The Amazing Adolescent Brain Invincible Youth Family Economic Success: For 211 Systems Introduction to Quality FRC Practice Promoting High Performance Partnerships Plan Do Study Act: A Process for Change Support Staff Skills Youth Development Vision, Mission, Leadership Identifying and Nurturing Allies and Champions Creating a Healthy Organizational Infrastructure Domestic Violence Recognizing and Integrating Diversified Resources

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Network Development Objectives:

- *Support and promote the existing and emerging abilities of regional family support networks, Children's Services Networks and Interagency Coordinating Councils to promote child safety, permanency and well-being by coordinating training and technical assistance opportunities for twelve (12) networks per year.*
- *For the Northern and Central Regions Strategies to each annually award subcontracts to a maximum of four (4) networks in order to build capacity for provision of training and technical support to other agencies.*

Strategies has successfully leveraged resources to provide small capacity building grants to 15 FRC/FSP networks (seven northern region networks and eight central region networks) for a variety of purposes including the development of a community needs and strengths assessment, the training of network members as trainers of a nationally recognized FES community change model and to devote time to work on an in-depth plan for network sustainability. These grants were provided to networks in the counties of San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Kings, El Dorado, Solano, Yuba, Sacramento, Siskiyou, Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara. Additionally, each network received at least fifteen (15) hours of technical assistance.

Future Directions

Strategies continues to utilize the networking approach to further the FDM and the High Performing Partnerships initiatives.

Strategies Central Region partners with the Institute of Community Collaborative Studies, California State University Monterey Bay, to develop the Pathways/FDM project, providing training and technical assistance to fourteen counties and more than ninety agencies statewide on the utilization of the FDM as both a case management tool and an evaluation tool to measure family progress during the intervention.

Technical assistance is provided to the CWS' Prevention Committee to help with the identification of strategic priorities for prevention efforts in California, as well as to California's three county CRP.

Finally, Strategies has been designated and is working in partnership with the CDSS and the Center for Social Policy, to serve as the coordinator for the statewide implementation of the Strengthening Families Five Protective Factors framework. A meeting of key stakeholders, including the First 5 Association, OCAP, the California Family Resource Association, the California Network of Family Support Networks, the Family Resource Center Network of California (representing FRCs serving families with special needs children) and representatives from the fields of early childhood education and the Los Angeles Unified School District (a key leader in implementing this model) will be held by the end of this reporting period to identify key statewide objectives for promoting the model as an approach for creating a more integrated approach to preventing child abuse and neglect.

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Outreach Objectives

Strategies' main outreach objectives are to produce and distribute the tri-annual publication, *Working Strategies*, as well as to coordinate and maintain the Strategies statewide data collection system, the training website, and the newly developed Strategies Forums website, www.strategiesforums.org, Strategies' webpage, www.supportingfatherinvolvement.org, allows consumers to take an Organizational Self Assessment for father friendliness and learn tips and hints to effectively engage and support fathers.

Activities/Results

Webpage and listserv: The Strategies website, www.familyresourcecenters.net, provides current information regarding trainings, services, tools and resources provided by Strategies to the beginning of March 2010, over 50,222 visits to the website. This number is expected to reach nearly 120,000 by the end of September 2010.

Working Strategies:

Working Strategies is a national publication providing new insight, current research, and best practice approaches that strengthen families and communities. It is published tri-annually and circulated to a mailing list of over 11,000 individuals, programs, organizations, and networks in the social service field. An electronic version (PDF) is available on the Strategies website at: www.familyresourcecenters.net/workingstrategies.

Working Strategies is housed in many university libraries and is in the final stages of being accepted into the premier online educational database (EBSCO), which is used by universities throughout the world.

The lead articles for this reporting period include:

- Fall/Winter 2009 – Violence Prevention: How Family Resource Centers Are Working Together.
- Spring 2010 – Working with Youth in Family Strengthening Organizations (FRCs).
- Summer 2010 – Supporting Father Involvement.
- Fall/Winter 2010 – Cultural Proficiency.

California Family Resource Association (CFRA): CFRA continues to contribute articles to *Working Strategies* that focus on areas of policy development and policy implementation that impact the field of family strengthening.

Future Directions

Strategies will continue to utilize the outreach approach to build relationships through network development, conference and meeting attendance and facilitation, publishing *Working Strategies* and through providing training and technical assistance.

Outreach to Underserved Populations

- Identify potential service users among isolated and underserved populations, such as tribes, rural and frontier communities, small counties, various ethnic communities and families engaged in agricultural work, etc.

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- Identify and implement the most effective ways to outreach to and engage identified isolated and underserved populations.

Activities/Results:

Strategies is actively engaged in the process of becoming a culturally proficient organization: The following Strategies training incorporate this perspective:

- Working with Families with Special Needs.
- Family Economic Success and Stability.
- Bridges Out of Poverty.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
- Diversity and Inclusion.
- Engaging fathers.

Strategies is reaching out to Native American tribes in the Central Valley and is part of the planning group and a co-sponsor of a conference coordinated by Central Valley leaders involved with implementing ICWA. Strategies is also participating in an engagement process with a small community outside of Fresno, California to help a local collaborative strategize how family and community strengthening approaches might be used as a vehicle for addressing the tremendous disparity between outcomes for Native American school children (who comprise 15 percent of children in the school) and other Non-Indian children.

Strategies Central Region is leading statewide dissemination efforts to build the capacity of organizations, beyond the original five research sites, to implement the evidence-based Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) approach as well as increasing the social service sector's ability to effectively engage and support positive father involvement in the lives of children. During this reporting period, Strategies provided 28 trainings/workshops and 250 hours of technical assistance.

Program Improvement Area 10: Programs, Activities, Services and Training

Special Start Training Program (SSTP)

The CDSS continues to utilize CAPTA funds for the SSTP, which provides training to medical professionals, social workers, professionals from other disciplines, and foster and adoptive parents on assessment and developmental interventions for high-risk newborns that are discharged from intensive care nurseries. The program transitioned from Mills College to the University of California Children's Hospital at San Francisco in January 2009. The primary objective of this program is to facilitate enhanced parent/infant interactions and promote the development and recovery of medically fragile infants after discharge from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In learning to differentiate between what is stable behavior from what is stressful for the infant, parents are able to help their infant work towards organized behavioral patterns that support their medical recovery and development. The training is strength-based. Each training day is taught by a professional trainer, and a parent trainer gave birth to an infant needing NICU care. The CORE training program is called Family Infant Relationship Support Training (FIRST).

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Objectives

- *To provide CORE training for community professional such as foster parents, relative caregivers, social workers, psychologists, physical, speech and occupational therapists, public health nurses, early childhood educators, marriage and family therapists and home visitors in the assessment and planning of appropriate developmental interventions to meet the needs of medically fragile infants.*
- *To ensure the curriculum meets the certification standards for FIRST (Browne, et al, 1995) based on the methodology of the Newborn Individualized Development Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP, Als, 1985).*
- *To increase and broaden the audience of professionals requesting training statewide in California by using the webinar as a training medium in addition to face-to-face trainings.*

Activities/Results

In FFY 2009, 470 people throughout California attended five webinars produced by the SSTP. These webinars included:

- Behavioral Issues of High Risk Newborns after Discharge from the NICU.
- Evaluation of Neonatal Sucking: Normal, Disorganized and Dysfunction.
- Treatment and Intervention Strategies for the Poor Feeder: Disorganized and Dysfunctional.
- Behavioral Interventions for Support of High Risk Newborns from the NICU;
- Transitioning Home.

Three more webinars are planned for this FFY. Estimated participants for the four day FIRST training are 250. The SSTP included training foster parents with technical assistance on developing a foster parent curriculum. The training instructs foster parents on engagement techniques with biological parents to promote individualized caregiver interactions and support foster infant care during and after the transition period.

SSTP materials are developed, revised and updated as required. These materials include digital video training tapes of premature infant behavior, SSTP brochures and other hard copy material. Project staff utilizes the website to provide current resources/links regarding the condition/care of medically fragile infants on an on-going basis. Staff developed the booklet, *Getting to Know Your Baby* for caregivers and parents. It is available on the SSTP website to review and download. The companion book for caregivers/parents, *Supporting Your Infant after the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery Experience* has been written. It focuses on developmental information for parents after the infant has been in the NICU.

The SSTP website contains the webinars and downloadable training materials.

Program Improvement Area 12: Programs, Activities, Services and Training

California Parent Engagement Center (CPEC)

The website for the CPEC can be found online at: <http://panetwork.parentsanonymous.org/asp5/Default.aspx>. In July 2007, the CDSS and Parents Anonymous® Inc. began collaborating on a joint project to develop and maintain a California Center on Parent Involvement. The purpose of the Center is to assist the state in moving toward the use of evidence-

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based/evidence informed efforts that include meaningful involvement of parents and caregivers in direct services, trainings, public awareness, education, policy and systems change for California children and families. The Center developed a statewide database with various resources on parent involvement programs and practices (e.g. research articles, publications and web-based tools) for use by California communities to improve outcomes for children and families. As a part of this effort, the following has been established:

A State Advisory Committee:

This 17 member committee provides overall guidance on the work of the center. Members include state, county and regional representatives from Child Welfare, Mental health, Child Abuse Prevention, Tribal Communities, Family Resource Centers, Parent Leaders, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), funders and other key stakeholders. The committee developed a logic model with activities and timelines.

California Parent Engagement Center (CPEC) Summary Report:

This report presents general information pertaining to the parent engagement programs currently listed in the CPEC.

Creation of Evaluation Research Report:

An exciting new evaluation research report was released in July 2009. This report was conducted by Elizabeth K. Anthony, Jill Duerr Berrick, Ed Cohen and Elizabeth Wilder at the Center for Social Services Research, School of social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley, on the Contra Costa Parent Partner Program. The Executive Summary and Final report is entitled, *Partnering with Parents: Promising Approaches to Improve Reunification Outcomes for Children in Foster Care*.

California State Parent Team (CSPT)

The website for the CSPT can be found at the following web address:

<http://parentsanonymous.org/pahtml/cspt/cspt.html> . Given the commitment to ensure that the “parent voice” is heard in shaping the direction of family support programs, services and policies throughout California, the CDSS has established a CSPT. The CSPT is composed of diverse parents, who are consumers of service, with strong leadership skills and expertise who work collaboratively with professionals to help shape and strengthen family support programs, services and policies in California.

Some of the recent CSPT activities include:

- Selection of CSPT Members: A written nomination, interview and approval process for the selection of the Team members has been established and currently eight representatives have been chosen to serve on the Team.
- California State Parent Team Handbook: Each Team member received an orientation handbook which defines their role and responsibilities. CSPT members were informed that their role was primarily to focus on education and mentoring and not advocating.

- CSPT Meetings/Teleconferences: Throughout the year, meetings and numerous teleconferences were held. A Team Subcommittee was established to complete the CPEC Survey.
- Linkage to Committees/Task Forces/Special Projects: Appointments have been made for specific Team Members to serve on committees/task forces to plan and implement the Parent Leadership Conference in February 2011. Four Team members participated in a state-level stakeholder interview process as part of the Child and Family Services Onsite Review.
- Participation in National Level Committee: A team member was appointed to serve as the CSPT representative on the National Parent Partnership Council sponsored by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds.
- Participation in state/Regional level Events/Conferences: Team members have been presenters and/or participated in numerous events and conferences. They include: Foster Youth Summit, California Capitol Foster Care Month Kick-Off, Partnering to End Domestic Violence Conference, Engaging Native Communities in Child Abuse Prevention, Parents and Providers as Partners in Child Abuse Prevention, The Fifth California Wraparound Institute and 20th Annual Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Conference.
- Training: All Team members participated in public speaking training.
- Recruitment of New Parent Team Member: Parents Anonymous® Inc. is recruiting fathers. Currently, CPT has only one father in the team.

Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)

The CDSS is committed to maintaining and supporting strong and effective local CAPCs. Currently this is done via the support of the statewide Regional Child Abuse Prevention Coalition (RCAPC) Grant. The OCAP revised a previously supported statewide network (Prevention Network Development Grant) through a Request for Application (RFA) process for the new two-year Regional Child Abuse Prevention Coalition Grant cycle beginning in SFY 2009/2010.

The grant maintains a network of CAPCs network through eight regional coordinators assigned to geographically grouped counties throughout the state. The regional coordinators and coalitions of CAPCs assist OCAP in the responsibility to direct, lead and evaluate the network of public-private partnerships and the continuum of preventative services for children and families in all regions of the state. The regional coordinators and CAPCs are intended to provide a vehicle for networking, coordination and improvement of services and increasing public awareness and commitment to the prevention of child abuse. The RCAPC grant priorities include efforts to foster a continuum of prevention services in each region of the state, build public and private partnerships, including coordination with local child welfare agencies and family strengthening efforts under other systems such as early childhood education, substance abuse prevention and intervention, mental health services and domestic violence intervention and prevention.

The CDSS conducted a mandatory two-day grant orientation and training in 2009 for the grantees and regional coordinators. The regional coordinators will continue to facilitate region-

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wide child abuse prevention efforts, including the required community assessment and logic model. Throughout the processes, the regional coordinators will utilize the following goals which are consistent with those outlined in the Pathways to Prevention material:

- Children and youth are nurtured, safe and engaged.
- Families are strong and connected.
- Identified families access services and supports.
- Families are free from substance abuse and mental illness.
- Communities are caring and responsive.

Wraparound Parent Partner Project

In 2006, under the leadership of the CDSS, statewide efforts were undertaken to gather information regarding the role, training needs and supports available for Parent Partners in Wraparound Programs. Parents Anonymous® Inc. has been working in collaboration with the CDSS on this important project and has spearheaded work groups which have included Parent Partners, wraparound management and program staff, nation wraparound initiative representatives and the CDSS staff.

The CDSS actively moved forward to strengthen the critical role of the Parent Partner within the California Wraparound Program by:

- Establishing a Parent Partner Training Work Group. This work group gathered information on training curricula and resources for Parent Partners and compiled it into a Parent Partner Training Resource Guide for use by Wraparound programs in California.
- Establishing a Parent Partner Outcomes Work Group. This work group developed a Parent Partner role description and a fidelity tool to measure a Parent Partner's adherence to the core skills identified in the role description. Throughout this process, members of the work group continuously sought input from their colleagues, county and provider wraparound representatives. Parents Anonymous® Inc. and the outcomes work group are in the process of working with various county and provider programs to validate the fidelity tool.

Parent Leadership Conference

In addition to meeting federal funding requirements, the OCAP recognizes the importance of parent engagement in child welfare services. It is critical for consumers of these services to have roles in the planning, implementing and evaluating programs and policy decisions aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The purpose of the "Parent Leadership Conference" is to conduct a one-day conference with focus on engaging parents into advisory groups, governance structures, decision-making bodies and leadership roles.

The goals of Parent Leadership Conference are to:

- Raise public awareness about the important roles parents play in shaping the lives of children and families.
- Expand opportunities for parents to participate in meaningful leadership activities.
- Recognize individual parents and caregivers, an organization and a staff member who has made a positive difference in their families and communities.

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- Build successful partnerships between parents and professionals to strengthen and support families and communities.

The CDSS held the annual Parent Leadership Conference in Ontario, CA in February 2010 to continue to increase Parent Partnerships with child welfare services at the state level and in all 58 California counties.

Program Improvement Area 14: Programs, Activities, Services and Training

The Evidenced-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare Services in California (CEBC)

The CEBC is one of the CDSS' targeted efforts to improve the lives of children and families served within CWS. The CDSS' OCAP contracted with Rady Children's Hospital, Chadwick Center for Children and Families to create the CEBC. The grant was awarded on June 1, 2004. The project has been extended through June 2013.

The CEBC helps to identify and disseminate information regarding evidence-based practices relevant to child welfare, statewide agencies, counties, public and private organizations and individuals. One county reports they use the CEBC website whenever they are making decisions around implementing new programming, developing training plans for child welfare staff, and working with private providers to develop contracts for services. It has highly influenced the ability to bring EBPs into that county's child welfare services. Specific examples cited by the county include reviewing family engagement strategies to guide the creation of the training plan for the year; examining the information on trauma on the CEBC to develop a training plan around trauma issues of children involved in child welfare; and reviewing evaluation information on family home visiting in preparation for working with the health agency about the new federal funding for home visiting.

Another example includes one county's use of the CEBC in making policy decisions. The county reports they use the CEBC website to review programs when starting new initiatives or contracts. The ratings are used to help weigh the costs and benefits and examine the efficacy of programs. The county also uses the CEBC website in developing their SIP. Over the past few years, the United Way in that county has also used the CEBC website to review the research evidence for programs and make decisions about which new programs to fund.

Front line workers have also shared that they use the CEBC when looking at services and case plan development for cases. A front line worker from Yolo County shared that it helps her select programs based more on her clients' needs than just referring them to a generic service. "It helps me decide on what provider I may refer to and what type of program may be a best fit for a family. It also helps support recommendations with the Court."

At the University of Southern California, as well as in the California State Universities, the CEBC website has been used for teaching purposes to help students learn more about EBPs as they prepare to enter the workforce. It has also been used by the RTAs in California to help educate the child welfare workforce about EBPs. In addition, at the California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH), the CEBC website has been referenced in reports and presentations, as well as various projects that call for the use of EBPs with child welfare populations. The CiMH also

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receives two or three requests a month from individuals or agencies asking about EBPs for child welfare and refers them to the CEBC website.

The CEBC has also had numerous requests from community-based agencies about programs that are not on the CEBC website. The agencies were seeking help to evaluate whether a program is evidence-based as they consider whether to implement it. For instance, last month an agency in San Francisco contacted the CEBC to ask about Active Parenting Now. As a result, the CEBC is in the process of reviewing and rating this program to add to the website since it does have published peer-reviewed research.

Several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that have been introduced over the past few years have included references to the CEBC website. One recent example is the Administration on Children, Youth, & Families, Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care, HHS-2010-ACF-ACYF-CT-0022. This RFP directed applicants to the CEBC website as a resource to find programs that were evidence-based.

Finally, the CEBC website is used internationally. It was used as a model clearinghouse for the development of Sweden's national board of health and welfare for their website, Metodguiden. The CEBC website was also used as a model for the development of the Chinese Clearinghouse for Evidence-Based Practice and Policy (CCE) in collaboration with CEBC and the Chinese Cochrane center. This site is due to launch in September 2010. The CDSS has received a good deal of positive feedback from professionals in California and across the nation in terms of the usefulness of the CEBC in assisting in planning program implementation.

The CEBC is guided by an advisory committee (AC) and the Scientific Panel. The AC includes researchers, child welfare services practitioners, as well as representatives from the CWDA, the CDSS, community agencies and foundations. The Scientific Panel is comprised of five core members who are nationally recognized as leaders in child welfare research and practice, and who are knowledgeable about what constitutes best practice and evidence-based practice.

Objectives

Develop formal criteria for selection of practices as evidence-based and review a wide variety of sources to identify practices meeting the criteria.

To design a conceptual framework for an interactive web-based application of the CEBC that supports access to and implementation of evidence-based practices in the field of social work.

Activities/Results

The CEBC uses a standardized process to identify and review child welfare programs and practices for inclusion on the website. The statewide AC selects an average of five topic areas per year. The Clearinghouse staff works closely with the Scientific Panel to identify a leading child welfare authority with expertise for each selected topic area (topic experts). Working with the Scientific Panel and the Topic Experts, the CEBC staff selects programs for inclusion on the website. These generally involve between five and fifteen programs selected within a topic area that fits one of the following criteria:

- Have strong empirical support for their efficacy.

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- Is in common use in California.
- Are being used or marketed in California.

The CEBC staff work with the topic expert and with the developer of the program or model to identify all relevant program/model related literature. The CEBC staff examines all peer-reviewed research literature on the program/model along with a sample of proprietary and other relevant peer-reviewed clinical literature. The information from the reviews and the developers are synthesized to create the topic outline contained on the website. The Clearinghouse staff and topic experts review the research and science supporting the model and “rate” the model based on the strength of the evidence supporting it using a scientific rating scale. They determine the research and particular program’s and/or model’s relevance to child welfare outcomes based on the three fundamental goals; safety, permanency and well-being. As of March 2010, the CEBC website has 20 topic areas with 133 discrete programs and 15 screening and assessment tools.

The website, <http://www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org>, became operational in the spring of 2006. Changes continue to be made to improve the look and function of the site.

The CEBC website is designed to:

- Serve as an online connection for child welfare professionals, staff of public and private organizations, academic institutions, and others who are committed to serving children and families.
- Provide up-to-date information on evidence-based child welfare practices.
- Facilitate the utilization of evidence-based practices as a method of achieving improved outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being for children and families involved in the California public CWS.

As of February 2010, the CEBC website statistics are as follows:

- 136,963 visitors counted.
- 5 percent of the total visitors were from over 178 international countries.
- 85 percent were from the United States.
- 37 percent were from California.

Objective

Develop a formal process for the implementation and maintenance of the CEBC.

Activities

Four new topic areas have been added: Screening and Assessment Tools for Child Welfare, Mental Health Treatment for Children, Resource Parent Recruitment and Training and Infant and Toddler Mental Health (0-3).

The implementation resource section of the website was expanded to include implementation approaches. A brief description of approaches to implementation that were developed in health care, mental health and social services, including child welfare, is now available.

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A new section with information on cultural resources has been added to the website. The Cultural Resource Reference List provides citations and abstracts from articles that have been published in peer-reviewed, published literature about culture as it relates to evidence-based practices.

Two trainings on Interventions for Neglect, which also highlighted SafeCare® home visiting were held. Two mini-conferences provided information about specific evidence-based practices as well as information about implementing evidenced-based practices.

Future Direction

Three additional topic areas will be added to the website by July 2010. They include: Psychosocial Treatment for Parental Depression, Substance Abuse (Adolescent) and Parent Partner Programs. The CEBC Advisory Committee met on March 11, 2010 and had a discussion regarding topics to be included for the next fiscal year. It is anticipated that information regarding these new topics will be available for June 2010.

In addition to continuing basic operations, the CEBC will be adding online trainings and upgrading the back end of the website to increase functionality and improve the search process.

Two additional members will be added to the core Scientific Panel. One member will have expertise with child development to better represent the needs of young children in the child welfare system and the other member will have expertise with cultural and ethnic issues that can impact the use of evidence-based practices in child welfare.

Safe Kids California Project (SKCP)

In the fall of 2008, the Chadwick Center for Children and Families, Rady Children's Hospital received an award letter from the ACF informing them that their home visiting proposal was being funded for five years. The Chadwick Center in cooperation with the CDSS and others are disseminating the SafeCare® model for home visitation to multiple California counties for young children at risk for child neglect and/or abuse. The model uses bachelor level home visitors, and in addition to English, also includes staff support and coaching in Spanish for Spanish-speaking SafeCare® trainees.

SafeCare® is a structured evidence-based home visitation program that provides direct skill training to high-risk parents. SafeCare® providers teach families specific skills on how to manage child behavior, keep their home free of safety hazards, and take care of a child's basic health care needs. SafeCare® typically takes 18-20 sessions to complete approximately four to six months, and may run longer if other services are also needed. SafeCare® is typically delivered in the home by trained staff carrying caseloads of eight to ten families at a time.

Activities

The SKCP has made significant progress in providing training and support to implement SafeCare®. An advisory committee has been established and meets monthly. Training and mini conferences have been held throughout California. The first cohort has been selected

from the Central Valley (Fresno, Tulare, Madera partnership). Training and coaching has taken place.

In December 2009, the SKCP project received some challenging news. Unfortunately, the funding for the third year of the grant was inadvertently deleted from the federal budget. The ACF was only able to offer about 20 percent of the original amount awarded for the FFY to continue the project. In addition, a second grant was awarded to Rady Children's Hospital by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and it was planned that the two SafeCare® projects would combine portions of the evaluation in order to maximize funding and increase the sample size. Thus the elimination of funding for the ACF project also impacted the CDC project. The CDSS is providing funding to cover the costs of the third year of the ACF project in order to maintain the implementation of SafeCare® and to avoid a stoppage of both projects. The ACF has stated their intent is to continue funding for the remainder of the grant.

During SFY 2009/2010, 41 out of the 58 California counties indicated they were using prevention funding to support some type of home visiting program. Many of these home visiting programs are funded in collaboration with other partners. With the new federal home visiting grants available, California plans to apply for the funds in order to expand home visiting in the State, including the SafeCare® model, among other evidence-based programs.

Future Activities

SKCP staff will continue to train and certify staff in the SafeCare® model. An additional cohort will be chosen and, once selected, will be trained and certified.

Family Development Matrix (FDM)

The FDM is a collaborative effort of the Institute for Community Collaborative Studies, California State University, Monterey Bay, the CDSS, Strategies, and The Pathways Mapping Initiative. The FDM was funded for three additional years (SFY 2008/09 -2010/11) to further develop the FDM outcomes model and to assist the participating counties in integrating The Pathway to the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Pathway) goals and interventions. The FDM Pathway is an outcomes model which provides an integrated family assessment tool for case management and outcomes evaluation within county-based family service networks and ICWA tribal programs in California. Its primary purpose is to provide family support staff with the capacity to use the assessment and analysis of family outcome measurement data to set goals with families, record agency interventions, track worker case management and family participation activities that contribute toward improving family outcomes. The project utilizes the Pathway from Harvard University () and the Family Strengthening Protective Factors (<http://strengtheningfamilies.net>) to assist agencies in developing an intervention strategy that is integrated with the FDM case management system.

Objectives

- *Support, broaden and extend existing public/private partnerships in thirteen participating California counties focusing on prevention and neglect.*
- *Strengthen the validity of the FDM model by establishing a panel of experts.*

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Activities/Results

- Completed the organization of thirteen collaborative to use the FDM. Trained the agency coordinators and staff's capacity to use the FDM Pathway in the following counties, which represents eighty (80) agencies serving at-risk families: Butte, Del Norte, Fresno, Lake, Madera, Orange, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Tehama, Venture and Yolo counties. Currently collaborative in San Luis Obispo and Siskiyou counties are being added for an additional twelve agencies. Also, eight tribal communities served by ICWA program in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma counties are now participating in the FDM project.
- Integrated the Pathway into the matrix creator database. Each family worker has full access to the panel approved twenty core indicators and interventions. Agencies are able to add their custom indicators and interventions to the core.
- Created the Agency Showcase which enables FDM agencies to exhibit their programs and successful work with clients. The project is located online on the FDM website. It is available for other agencies, community partners and funders to access expertise from each other and potentially showcase agency data results. As part of the design process each of the FDM collaborative developed prevention plans that are also showcased to demonstrate their collaborative plan to use the FDM.
- The case management forms are now available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Hmong languages. Family workers are able to use these languages to conduct the assessment and case management activities and enter data using the family's primary language.
- Two evaluation strategies have been employed: 1) testing a theory of change with family outcome measures, interventions, worker and family activities and 2) validity of the FDM as an information system tool for family resource agencies.
- The FDM interventions have been organized by indicator to facilitate the worker's planning with families. Probing questions were added to the Family Empowerment Plan to make it easier for the family worker to inquire about goal setting with the family. A CD of all assessment and case management forms in all five languages is being distributed to all agency coordinators enabling them to upload the documents on workers' computers.

Safely Surrendered Babies (SSB)

This effort provides public awareness of the state law regarding abandonment of newborn babies. The SSB Law allows a responsible party to confidentially surrender a baby to a hospital and, in designated counties, fire stations. A parent who is unable or unwilling to care for an infant can legally and confidentially surrender their baby within three days of birth, so long as there is no evidence of abuse or neglect. The goal of the SSB program is to prevent injury or death to newborns that may be abandoned under unsafe conditions.

Objectives

- *To provide a statewide, toll-free hotline telephone number for all safe surrender baby sites within California.*

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- *To provide public awareness through education and outreach by providing and disseminating materials that educates the general public about the state law.*

Activities/Results

The CDSS has awarded a grant to The Information and Referral Federation of LA County (DBA 211 LA County) to expand its existing hotline from 20 counties to all 58 counties with listings and operator referrals of statewide safe surrender infant locations. A press release and ACIN I-19-10 provided notice to all the counties advising them to post the new toll free number (1-877-BABYSAF) on their web sites and to publicize in any way they can. A letter is being drafted to inform all safe surrender sites to review the law, their obligations under the law, and whether the site specific information is accurate. Also, as nonhospital sites are required to be designated by their county board of supervisors and a letter is being drafted to all board of supervisors reminding them about the SSB law and their role in designating sites.

In the ongoing effort to increase public awareness, the CDSS continues to provide public outreach materials. The public education materials include posters and brochures that are available in both English and Spanish at no cost. These brochures and posters have been updated to incorporate the new toll-free telephone number.

SSB public education materials are available upon request. The types of agencies that request SSB materials are:

- Local health departments, hospitals and other health care organizations (e.g., the California Health Care Association).
- Community-based service organizations (e.g., FRCs).
- Law enforcement (e.g., district attorneys, police departments, sheriff's departments, and probation offices).
- Public agencies, private organizations, and policy/decision makers from local government.
- State Departments (e.g., Education and Health Services).
- Community Institutions (e.g., schools, colleges and universities).

As illustrated in the graph below, the number of babies illegally abandoned decreased steadily since the implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in 2001, further leveling off between 2007 and June 30th 2010, while the number of safely surrendered babies increased during the early stages of implementation. The data are limited to reported cases in CWS/CMS and do not reflect information collected from other sources.

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Figure 16: Number of Reported Surrendered and Abandoned Infants in California between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2010

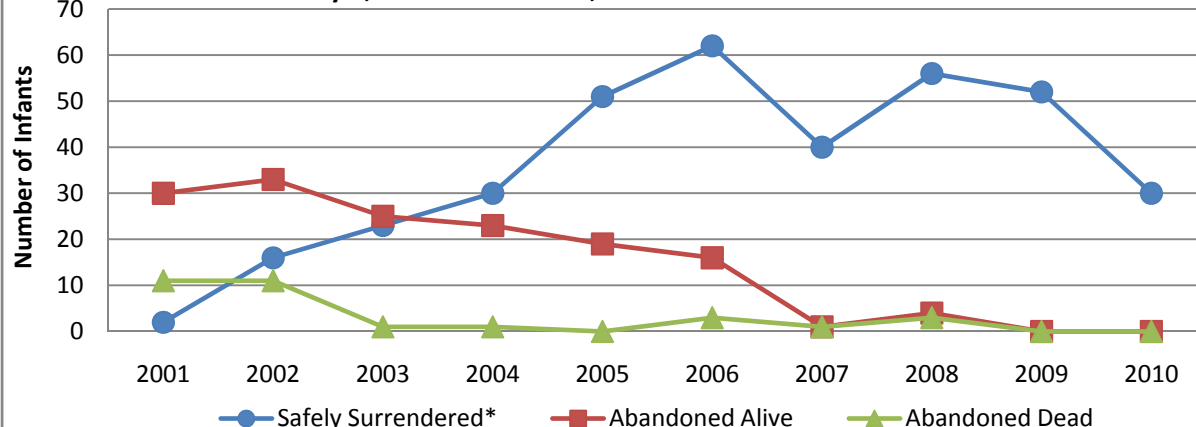


Figure 16: Number of Reported Surrendered and Abandoned Infants in California between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2010.

***Safely Surrendered totals include infants who were also reclaimed. Data are limited to reported cases in CWS/CMS.**

Supporting Father Involvement Study (SFI)

During the SFY 2002/2003, the CDSS funded a research study-intervention designed to improve the quality and level of positive father involvement in at-risk families. Contractors were public child welfare services agencies in five counties. Currently, programs operate in the counties of Santa Cruz, Yuba, San Luis Obispo, Contra Costa, and Tulare. Each agency was required to partner with a local family resource center that would implement the intervention.

The CDSS contracted with the University of California, Berkeley to provide principle investigators for the study, coordinate the data component (develop assessment tools, curriculums, forms, and conduct data analysis), and to subcontract for on-going clinical staff consultation and training. The objectives of the SFI research study intervention are to:

- Determine the effectiveness of a particular intervention to increase positive father involvement.
- Measure organizational culture change to determine the extent to which the family resource centers implementing the intervention become more father friendly: successfully engage fathers in other programs and services offered and reflect father inclusion in workers' attitudes/practices, agency policies and procedures and within the agency's physical environment.

The initial target population was comprised of community parents, who were unknown to child welfare services, and who were co-parenting couples with children age seven and younger. With the new three year funding cycle, beginning in SFY 2009/10, families with child welfare involvement become the focus of the study. These families are to comprise 75 percent of those being served. The remaining 25 percent will be families who are not known to the child welfare system. It is projected that the SFI program will be just as effective with the child welfare services families as it has been with community families.

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Families are randomly assigned to one of three of the following groups:

- A one-time educational presentation about how positive father involvement improves outcomes for children.
- A 16-week (2 hours per week) group meeting for fathers, based upon an established curriculum.
- A 16-week group for couples (2 hours per week) based upon an established curriculum. All project participants receive case management services.

Data is collected through a battery of assessments administered three times during each family's participation in the study. Funding for this program will continue through the SFY 2012.

Objective

To expand the SFI intervention to recruit and serve families who are known to child welfare services. Child welfare families will comprise 75 percent of the families served.

Activities/Results

In preparation for referring parents/families to the SFI program, the Director of CWS in each of the five counties housing the Program approved assigning a supervisor to serve as their SFI County Liaison. County Liaisons were invaluable to establishing a referral process and creating/maintaining relationships with potential referents.

Objective

To make on-going training and technical assistance available to staff to enhance knowledge and skills needed to provide meaningful services to individuals and families known to child welfare services.

Activities

Consultants with expertise in addressing domestic violence and child abuse issues with culturally diverse individuals/families known to public child welfare services were subcontracted to provide clinical consultation and training to SFI staff. Consultation is primarily provided via monthly teleconferencing and through bi-annual in person All Project Staff Meetings.

A project listserv created in 2004 continues to be used as the primary communication vehicle for staff, researchers, etc. Additionally, twice monthly, separate teleconferences are held for group leaders, case managers, data coordinators, and the Response Team, which consists of the, principal investigators, clinical consultants and staff from the CDSS.

Objective

Individual parents/families known to child welfare services are to comprise 75 percent of target group served.

Activities

The SFI curriculums and all programmatic/data collection forms were revised to accommodate revising the Program to accommodate the inclusion of the new group of participants.

From mid-October 2009, when services began with the new group of families, through the beginning of March 2010, 212 individuals were found eligible to participate in the Study. 96 individuals are known to child welfare services.

Objective

To continue to disseminate SFI results throughout the five counties hosting the current SFI programs and throughout the remainder of the state and to complete Phase III by June 30, 2009.

Activities/Results

The results from Phase I and Phase II are continuously disseminated statewide. As planned, Phase III ended June 30, 2009. Phase IV, working with families known to child welfare services, began July 1, 2010.

Objective

Refine the plan for disseminating the SFI results from Phase I and Phase II. Increase dissemination efforts. Continue to deliver an effective training and technical assistance program to the five implementing sites to enable them to better meet the needs of participating families.

Activities

Dissemination Activities (sites): In addition to being engaged with “start-up” activities for working with child welfare services families, the five sites (Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Contra Costa, Yuba and Tulare) made a total of 52 presentations that attracted 1,579 participants.

Strategies Dissemination Activities (statewide): Strategies Region 2, which coordinates statewide dissemination efforts, conducted a total of 28 presentations, which attracted 919 participants. Strategies engaged in a media campaign and developed trainings and web based resources designed to increase the social service sector’s ability to effectively engage and support positive father involvement. The three fold foci were:

- Increase the awareness of service providers, fathers and mothers of the role of fathers in the development of their children.
- Affect practice and policy changes that support increased positive engagement of fathers with their children.
- Promote organizational change within public agencies and private organizations that reflect the recognition of fathers as caretakers of their children and provide services to help men with their parenting skills and their communication with their partners.

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Strategies provided technical assistance to enable a family support network to organize and present its first Fatherhood Summit attended by 85 people in January 2010. By September 30, 2010, eight agencies will have completed the first phase of the extensive organizational self assessment with each having received 20 hours of technical assistance.

Activities/Results

During the first quarter of the new funding cycle, training and technical assistance to the five sites implementing the SFI study centered upon:

- Identifying challenges of working with public child welfare services families.
- Challenges related to successfully combining community families with child welfare services families.
- Data requirements: needs for and issues related to revising screening tools, assessment instruments, intake forms, etc. Issues related to domestic violence and its effects upon children.
- Curriculum assessment and revision needs.
- Cultural specific issues of domestic violence.
- Staff care techniques.

Citizen Review Panels (CRPs)

Established by federal statute in the CAPTA as a requirement for a state grant, the function of CRPs is to examine the extent to which state and local child protection agencies are discharging their child protection obligations. Evaluation involves examining child protection policies, practices, and procedures. Recommendations are then made to county and state governments for improvement.

The CRPs bring together citizens, former consumers of services, foster parents, child welfare services professionals, CASAs, children's attorneys, educators, representatives of tribal governments, representatives of county public health and mental health agencies, law enforcement officials and others to review these policies, practices and procedures.

Objective

Assure that there is a minimum of three CRPs operating in the state each year.

Activities /Results

Calaveras County, San Mateo County and the State CRP completed the funding cycle which ended September 30, 2009.

ACIN 1-41-09 was issued on May 27, 2009 soliciting applications and letters of intent from counties and other parties interested in operating a CRP. Calaveras County, San Mateo County and the Statewide Panel expressed a desire to continue as CRPs and were approved. An additional panel in Ventura County was selected and has begun operation.

Objective

Maintain compliance with all federal CAPTA requirements regarding CRPs.

Activities/Results

All county panels are required to submit an annual report including recommendations to the state and/or local government and to the CDSS. The statewide CRP makes its recommendations to the CDSS. The CDSS responds in writing to the recommendations no later than six months after the date the report was submitted.

The CRPs are engaging in on-going recruitment of members to create a diverse panel of private and public stakeholders.

The CRPs are developing and implementing the means by which recommendations will be disseminated to county and state officials and the public.

Objective

The enhancement of training and technical assistance provided to the CRPs.

Activities/Results

To facilitate understanding of the changing focus of the child welfare system in California, the CDSS engaged a consultant who had background in child welfare service system improvement. The consultant provides technical assistance to panels through site visits, conference calls and e-mails. From October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, the consultant will have provided over 140 hours of technical assistance to the CRPs:

- Site visits to CRP counties with follow-up reports to the CDSS.
- Program orientation and development of policies and procedures. Training to new CRP and the CDSS staff regarding all aspects of the CRPs.
- As requested by CRP, provide support documents, information about other state CRP practices, current trends and data to support chosen objectives.
- Telephone conference calls to obtain updates, provide guidance and answer questions.
- Review, provide input for and make revisions of reports prior to their submission to the CDSS.
- Review work plans; assist in formalization of objectives and corresponding review activities.
- Provide on-going guidance to CRP counties, the state CRP and the CDSS as requested.

Annual CRP Meeting

The annual meeting was held on June 15, 2010. Members from Calaveras, San Mateo, Ventura and the state CRPs were invited to attend. The focus of this meeting was to acquaint all of the CRPs with one another and to share successes and challenges. It also served as an opportunity to review CRP requirements. A national expert on CRPs joined us for the meeting to share his considerable research knowledge and experiences as a CRP program coordinator. In addition, he will be providing technical assistance to the state to better meet the goals and objectives of CAPTA and California's CRPs.

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The CRPs have had some challenges this year. Ventura County is the newest panel, but has done a great job in becoming established as a panel. The State Panel has faced some challenges in submitting their reports in a timely fashion, in meeting some of the CAPTA requirements, etc. But CDSS is providing technical assistance as needed to address the issues.

The Tenth Annual CRP Report is submitted as *Attachment C* to the 2010 APSR. The report includes the Statewide Citizen Review Panel List.

Strengthening Families Framework

The CDSS is continuing to incorporate the Strengthening Families' framework. The CDSS is promoting the use of Protective Factors in the CAPC efforts based on research, which has found that the most successful child abuse and neglect prevention interventions include strategies that both reduce risk factors and promote Protective Factors to ensure the well-being of children and families. The CDSS has been consulting with other states who have already implemented this framework and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to further develop its strategy and implementation plan. In addition, the CDSS has been looking at ways existing projects already contain the Protective Factors.

Objective

To strengthen the child abuse and neglect prevention network statewide.

Activities/Results

As mentioned previously, Strategies is working in partnership with the CDSS and the Center for Social Policy to serve as the coordinator for the statewide implementation of the Strengthening Families Five Protective Factors framework. A meeting of key stakeholders, is scheduled for the end of this reporting period to identify key statewide objectives for promoting the model as an approach for creating a more integrated approach to preventing child abuse and neglect.

**CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM AND EDUCATION AND
TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM**

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The following document is arranged in accordance with the provisions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-04-01 requirements.

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Part I: Program Plan Narrative

The CDSS administers and monitors a statewide, county implemented ILP which includes the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus). The CDSS will focus on providing services that are evidence-based practices and training opportunities. In addition, the CDSS will encourage the development and implementation of proven best practices and provide technical assistance to counties in the provision of core ILP services.

Independent Living Program (ILP) Services

The CDSS requires all counties to provide core Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) services to all eligible foster or former foster youth in California and provide documentation of outcomes. Throughout the state, counties are focusing more on providing services to this population of young adults in order to best serve their needs and ensure positive outcomes.

For SFY 2008/09, the CDSS received a federal grant of \$19,166,000 and provided \$15,166,000 in state dollars for a total allocation of \$34,332,000 combined federal and state funds.

ILP regulations provide the framework within which counties will use these funds to provide core ILP services to youth throughout the state. Services are available to youth in foster care between the ages of 16-18 and to eligible former foster youth between the ages of 18-20. The goals of ILP are as follows:

1. Help youth make the transition to self-sufficiency:

In accordance with MPP Division 31-525.8, the ILP has been designed to offer core services that will enable foster youth 16 years of age and older, to develop the core living skills which assist the youth in the successful transition to adult living.

Core services shall be provided based on identified individual needs and goals as documented in the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) including, but not limited to:

- Education.
- Career development.
- Assistance and referral to promote health (including mental health) and safety. Referral to available mentors and mentoring programs.
- Daily living skills.
- Financial resources, such as: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal.
- Housing information including: federal, state and local housing programs.
- Developing permanent connections to a supportive adult.

PL 110-351, which became effective on January 1, 2010, requires each state to develop a transition plan within the 90-day period prior to the foster youth's 18th birthday, and emancipation from foster care. CDSS has developed a process for implementation of the 90 day transition plan for foster youth, which meets the requirements of PL 110-351. In addition,

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Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 16501.1 (f) (16) (B) identifies the core life skills (including, but not limited to housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, and workforce supports and employment services) that the social worker or probation officer must address in developing the 90-day Transition Plan with the foster youth.

- PL 111-148, signed into law on March 23, 2010, requires the 90-day transition planning process to include the requirement to provide foster youth with information about health insurance options, a power of attorney for health care and the opportunity to execute the option of designating a health care power of attorney. The 90-day Transition Plan currently includes information regarding health insurance; however, the form will also be revised to include the requirement to inform foster youth of their option to designate a health care power of attorney
- To implement the requirements of PL 111-148, CDSS has developed an ACL advising counties of the new requirements effective October 1, 2010, and providing counties with an updated 90-day Transition Plan form.
- Revision to current California statute is necessary to ensure this federal requirement is met. The CDSS is in the process of submitting a legislative proposal that would amend WIC section 16501.1 to add the requirements of PL 111-148. The amendment to WIC section 16501.1 will include the requirement that the social worker or probation officer provide youth with information explaining a power of attorney during the 90-day transition planning process.
- In California, only adults are legally able to execute an Advanced Health Directive designating a power of attorney, CDSS will also propose amendments to WIC Section 391 to add the Advanced Health Directive form to the list of documents provided to youth upon reaching the age of majority while in foster care.

The CDSS, in preparation for implementing the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), collaborated with counties to identify and develop methods for capturing information on demographics and outcomes of foster youth who receive ILP services. As a result, changes to the SACWIS system now allow for the documentation of all core ILP services that foster youth receive. The data elements captured are the same as those in the NYTD regulations. There is currently only six months of available data.

Data is available for April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009. The services reported are unduplicated for each youth in foster care. Therefore, a youth may have received eight services with a mentor during the report period; however, it would only be counted one time. The following chart shows the number of services provided during the six month period.

Table 5: Number of Services Provided during April 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009

*Data are from the National Youth in Transition Database, as reported in SACWIS

ILP Service Provided	Number of Youth Served
Needs Assessment	272
Academic Support	596
Post-Secondary Education	323
Career Guidance	506
Employment/Vocational Training	281
Financial Management	323
Home Management	565
Health Care/Education	237
Interpersonal/Parenting Skills	306
Mentoring	806
Supervised Independent Living	164
Room & Board Financial Assistance	30
Education Financial Assistance	232
Transportation/Other Financial Assistance	306

The data shows that over 800 youth statewide are being connected with mentors. This is the highest reported service provided to youth. This is reflective of the State's efforts to ensure that youth have a permanent connection to an adult when they exit care.

The total number of eligible California foster youth 14-19 years of age is 16,782. It is difficult at this point to assess how effective the state is at providing the services because we believe that not all counties are documenting in the SACWIS the services that youth receive. Beginning October 1, 2010, the NYTD will provide a more accurate picture by capturing the services for both current and former youth up to 21 years of age.

The reporting of these services is a new process. Data revealed that counties are under reporting the number of services provided. This is not unexpected since the system modifications are fairly recent. The report showed that most counties (especially larger counties) were only recording ILP services on less than ten percent of their eligible youth. The CDSS expects that with the implementation of NYTD in October 2010 that there will be a significant increase in the numbers of youth receiving ILP services. Training on data entry for ILP delivered services is being developed and will be provided to county social workers, probation officers and the ILP prior to the implementation of NYTD.

The CDSS continues to implement the THPP, which provides youth, aged 16-18, with the opportunity to experience semi-supervised apartment living while receiving supportive

services. For SFY 2008/09, 31 counties participated in the Transitional Housing Program. A total of \$13,835,000 combined federal and state funds were allocated for THPP in SFY 2008/09.

2. Help youth receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment:

The ILP delivered services data shows that over 780 foster youth received services focused on employment while in foster care during April 1 – September 30, 2009. Again, these are only preliminary numbers. The CDSS will expect these numbers to be higher during the next reporting after training on the NYTD data entry process is provided. The ILP regulations state that all ILP foster youth are to be enrolled in the county's career center for employment assistance.

In addition, the CDSS is now collecting information on the status of youth upon emancipation from foster care. This "Exit Outcomes" data is item 8A in California's Outcomes and Accountability System. The CDSS now has a full year of Exit Outcomes data to begin establishing baseline outcomes for emancipated foster youth.

Exit Outcomes data shows that 60 percent of foster youth who left care during FFY 2009 were enrolled in either 1) a program to earn their high school diploma or GED, 2) enrolled in a vocational training program or 3) enrolled in college. As this is the first set of available data, there cannot be a comparison to prior years.

Upon leaving foster care, eligible foster youth can continue to receive the education and employment training needed to assist them in obtaining a vocational certificate and/or stable employment via the ILP aftercare services. These services are available to eligible former foster youth until the day before their 21st birthday.

3. Help youth prepare for and enter postsecondary training and educational institutions:

The Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program provides financial support to foster youth seeking postsecondary education or training. Chafee grants are used for education-related purposes such as tuition, tutoring, books, supplies, transportation, rent and child care. More detailed information is at the end of this section.

California provides further assistance to foster youth in attaining their post-secondary educational/training goals by providing Emancipated Youth Stipend (EYS), in addition to ILP funds. Los Angeles county reports spending over \$1.4 million of their EYS funds for SFY 2008/09 to support emancipated foster youth with education related expenses. Unfortunately, the elimination of the EYS appropriation for the current SFY resulted in some counties, particularly larger counties, struggling to find ways to help support transitioning youth in their post-secondary education pursuits.

During FFY 2009, Exit Outcomes data reveals that 52 percent of youth emancipated from care with a high school diploma or GED. An additional 27 percent were enrolled in a program to earn their high school diploma or GED. Foster youth are allowed to remain in care, until they turn 19, to complete their high school diploma. It is likely that some of the 27 percent who were enrolled in a program to complete high school requirements had already turned 19 years old and emancipated due to their age.

At the end of the FFY 2009 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009), all counties' data have been reported for the exit outcome report. The number of youth exiting foster care was 3,760, of this total, 1,707 youth earned either a high school diploma or a GED in FFY 2009. These data figures were extracted from the State of California form 405E (SOC 405E).

The CDE provides funding for and oversight of the Foster Youth Services program (FYS). The primary purpose of the FYS is to provide advocacy and direct services to support the educational success of foster youth statewide. FYS provides foster youth with a wide range of academic support from tutoring to school based behavioral support, as well as vocational education and emancipation services.

In the 2008/09 academic year, FYS data reflects a 71 percent graduation rate for the students receiving their services. FYS also reports providing over 46,500 direct services to foster youth. It was reported that in San Diego County, 90 percent of the youth receiving FYS support graduated from high school. To further support their foster youth, Orange County revised their FYS contract to include services to foster youth ages ten and older.

4. Provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults:

Providing personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults is a crucial element in assisting foster youth 16 years and older to successfully transition to adult living. The CDSS collaborates and partners with numerous state agencies, advocacy organizations, and community based organizations and encourages the design of mentoring programs that utilize the following resources to provide this personal and emotional support to youth.

It is reported that from April 1, 2009 - Sept 30, 2009, over 800 foster youth received some type of support from a mentor or mentoring program. The CDSS and Counties have made strong efforts to ensure that foster youth who age out of care have at least one permanent connection to an adult who will support them. Exit Outcomes data shows that 88 percent of youth aged-out of foster care reporting that they had a permanent connection with at least one adult that they could go to for emotional support, advice and guidance.

5. Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing and then making the transition into adulthood

Continued ILP services: youth who were in KinGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program) or in foster care between the ages of 16-18 are eligible for continued ILP (aftercare) services between the age of 18 and up to the day before their 21st birthday to help support them in achieving self-sufficiency. According to county reports over 12,000 former foster youth received aftercare services, such as:

Employment skills.

Health, safety, and hygiene.

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Banking, money management, and budgeting.
Consumer purchasing, loans, and contracts.
Obtaining housing and home maintenance.
Interpersonal skills.
Knowledge of community resources.

Currently, the CDSS does not collect data on the specific aftercare services provided to former foster youth. Further changes to our SACWIS system are underway to allow for this data to be captured for former foster youth and probation youth who receive ILP services through the ILP aftercare programs. This data will be collected beginning in FFY 2011 with the implementation of NYTD.

Housing

Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)

The THP-Plus is a transitional housing placement opportunity for emancipated foster youth, aged 18-24, who emancipated from the child welfare system. The goal of the program is to provide a safe living environment while helping youth achieve self-sufficiency so that they can learn life skills upon leaving the foster care support system. Counties electing to participate in the program provide supervised independent living and support services.

In SFY 2009/2010, a total of 52 counties are participating in THP-Plus. The amount of funding allocated for the program totaled \$35.8 million and could fund a total of 1,203 beds. This bed total is on a one-person basis (a program participant can choose to leave and re-enter the program within a two-year time frame).

A total of 52 counties participated in THP-Plus in SFY 2008/09 and served approximately 2000 youth. Youth are placed in an apartment-like setting and receive services. The program lasts for two years. At the end of the program, the youth, if they are able and want to stay in that apartment, can take over the apartment lease.

Assistance for chronically homeless youth

The MHSA, (Statutes of 2006) provides funding for housing and supportive services to persons with severe mental illness who are chronically homeless. This includes transitional age youth (TAY). The MHSA set aside approximately \$40 million for the Multi-family Housing Program (including TAY) and \$2 million in state share of costs for rental subsidies. A total of 406 units are currently in process of construction and rehabilitation and identified as Adult/TAY or TAY-only housing.

The Chafee Allocation for Room and Board

In accordance with the federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, a county may spend up to 30 percent of their ILP allocation for the room and board needs of eligible emancipated youth. The age of eligibility is from 18 years of age up to the day of their 21st birthday. Allowable expenditures for the 30 percent housing allocation may include the following variety of costs emancipated youth incur:

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- Food purchases.
- Payment of rental deposits and/or utility deposits.
- Payment of rent and/or utility bills.
- Emergency assistance - the determination of which is a county's interpretation.
- Moving expenses.
- Furniture and/or household items.
- Costs incurred through roommate network agencies.

The most recent available data reports that counties provided services to 849 foster youth under the Room and Board allowance.

Financial Support

Emancipated Youth Stipends (EYS)

EYS funds are 100 percent SGFs and are a separate source of funds from a county's ILP allocation. EYS funds are used to address the special and emergency needs of emancipated foster youth.

Counties have found this funding, over 3.6 million for SFY 2008/2009, a vital means of providing a wide variety of services to youth. EYS funds can be used to help recently emancipated youth with costs including, but not limited to: transportation, employment, housing and education. Counties use these funds to support emancipated youth in a variety of ways. Los Angeles County spent the majority of their 1.7 million of EYS funds on education related expenses whereas Alameda County with the second largest allocation, at more than \$275,000, spent over \$130,000 on employment related expenses. Riverside County, due to its large geographical region spends about 28 percent of their EYS to assist youth with transportation needs for education and ILP participation.

For the SFY 2009/10, the Emancipated Youth Stipend has been suspended due to California's budget deficit. The funding for next year has not yet been determined. This is a funding source that counties rely on to assist transitioning and emancipated youth in continuing their education and assisting them with other financial needs as described above.

Employment

All current and former foster youth between the age of 18 and up to the day before their 21st birthday are eligible to receive services through the provisions of The WIA and One-Stop Centers. According to the Workforce Services Division of the EDD, statewide a total of 4,335 current and former foster youth enrolled in the WIA and One-Stop Centers from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009. During this period, a total of 2,945 foster youth exited from WIA and One-Stop Centers for various reasons, i.e., completed the training program, found employment, and no longer active, etc. Counties provide additional employment related services through partnerships with community businesses, agencies such as Ameri-Corps, and direct services to the youth.

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Exit Outcomes data reveals that 34 percent of foster youth were employed, part or full time, when they aged-out of foster care. Additionally, 646 of the 1,496 youth participating in THP-Plus were employed for at least three consecutive months.

Data on the numbers of youth who receive employment related services after aging out of foster care will not be available until FFY 2011.

6. Make vouchers available for education and training, including postsecondary education to youth who have aged out of foster care.

California Chafee Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) provides resources specifically to meet the educational and training needs of youth who are transitioning out of foster care. Please see page 138, part 5, for further information regarding ETV.

7. Provide services to youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption

California youth who have left foster care after age 16 for adoption, guardianship or reunification are eligible for the same ILP services as youth who are currently in care between the ages of 16-18 or have aged out of care. Youth who are in California's KinGAP program are eligible for ILP services once the youth turns 16 regardless of the youth's age when exiting foster care for KinGAP. These services are funded through the state/federal Independent Living Program Allocation. Information about services for KinGAP youth is contained in heading number five.

8. Improve Outcomes for Youth Aging out of Foster Care

The CDSS, in collaboration with county and state representatives, foster youth, and advocates, developed and implemented regulations to ensure that ILP services provided will improve outcomes for youth who emancipate from foster care.

The CDSS has recently implemented a new data collection tool, The Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report (SOC 405E), to quantitatively measure outcomes when youth transition out of foster care. Counties must submit this report each quarter. The report collects data on youth who have aged out of foster care during that quarter and includes information on outcome related domains, such as high school completion, enrollment in college, employment, housing, health care, permanent connections and financial information.

The CDSS now has a full year of Exit Outcomes data to begin establishing baseline outcomes for emancipated foster youth. The data presented below are percentages of youth who aged out of foster care statewide for FFY 2009, (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009) and for whom data is reported. As previously stated, 3,760 youth exited foster care during this period.

Table 6: Exit Outcomes Data for Youth who Aged Out of Foster Care

*Data are from The Exit Outcome for Youth Aging out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report (SOC 405E).

Outcome	Percent of Youth n = 3,760
Received High School Diploma	47%
Received GED	5%
Enrolled in a program to complete High School education	27%
Dropped out of High School	13%
Plan to Enroll in College	21%
Enrolled in College	28%
Enrolled in Vocational Education	5%
Employed Full-Time	7%
Employed Part-Time	27%
Receiving or applied for additional government financial resources	21%
Applied for Food Stamps	9%
Arranged to rent alone or with others	24%
Arranged to live free of rent with someone	38%
Arranged to live in supportive transitional housing	19%
Arranged to live in subsidized housing	3%
No housing arranged	1%
Medical insurance	72%
No medical insurance	2%
Permanent connection with at least one adult they can go to for support, advice and guidance	88%

Part 2: Coordinating Services with other Federal and State Programs and Indian Tribes

The State of California, Department of Education (CDE)

The CDE funds and administers the Foster Youth Services Program (FYS); a program mandated through the Education Code sections 42920–25. The primary purpose of FYS is to provide advocacy and direct services to support the educational success of foster youth statewide. The FYS functions as a liaison between the foster youth and their educators to 1) improve pupil academic achievement, 2) reduce the incidence of pupil discipline problems or juvenile delinquency, and 3) reduce the rates of pupil truancy and dropout. FYS provides foster youth with a wide range of academic support from tutoring to school based behavioral support, as well as, vocational education and emancipation services. In SFY 2008/09, FYS provided over 46,000 direct services to foster youth.

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The State of California, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The CDSS has expanded Medicaid to provide services to youth that have aged out of foster care and are at least 18 years of age and have not yet attained their 21st birthday. This program allows foster youth that are receiving foster care funds on their 18th birthday to remain eligible for Medi-Cal with no share of cost or monthly income evaluations. Re-determination will be left to each county per DCHS specifications. The CDSS continues to work with counties and the DHCS to ensure all eligible youth receive extended Medi-Cal benefits.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC)

The collaboration between the CDSS and the FCCC is to promote statewide educational training on life skills and college and career preparation to current and transitioning foster and probation youth aged 16 to 21 years. In addition, adult care providers including foster parents, kinship caregivers, group home staff, and foster family agencies receive educational training in conjunction with these youth. The graph below illustrates the number of youth served by the program, as provided by the FCCC:

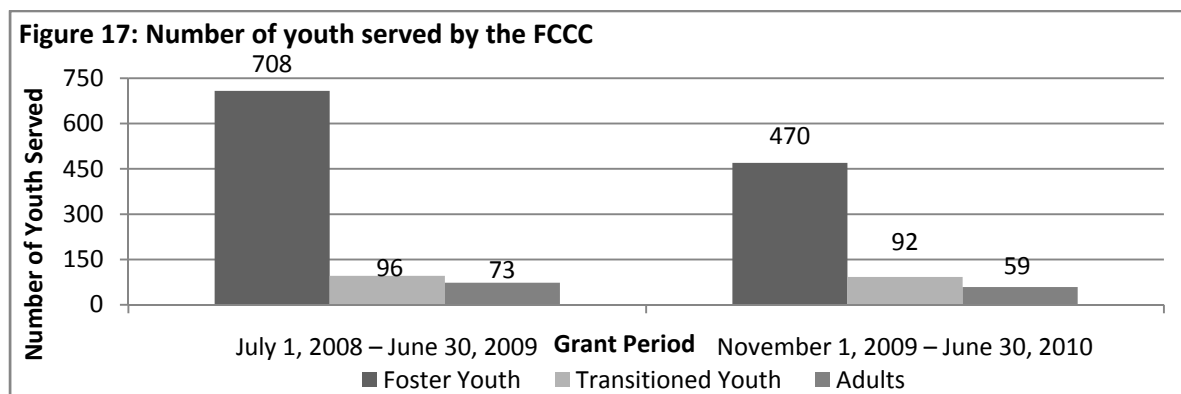


Figure 17: The number of youth served by the FCCC

*Data provided by the FCCC

The collaboration between the CDSS, the FCCC, and FCCC's partnerships promotes:

- Collaborative needs assessments, multi-disciplinary, youth-driven needs assessments.
- The use of college and county resources.
- Program planning, implementation and continuous program improvement strategies to ensure optimal provision of service to all youth.
- Linkages through which foster youth receive individualized, age appropriate and culturally sensitive services.
- Implementation and evaluation of various ILP services.
- Integration with statewide initiative (California College Pathways project) to streamline transfer process from community colleges to four year institutions.

California Indian Tribes

The CDSS utilizes its ICWA Workgroup, which is currently comprised of representatives from tribes and tribal organizations as well as representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

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counties and the State, as a means of consulting with tribes. Additionally, the CDSS consults with tribes in order to implement the Chafee ETV and the Independent Living Program.

The CDSS works collaboratively with community partners in receipt of a federal grant to develop the Tribal Successful Transitions for Adult Readiness (STAR) project to ensure that Native American youth are offered the full range of ILP services in a culturally sensitive manner. San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties collaborated with Tribal STAR for ICWA specific training. Some counties attend monthly meetings with ICWA Workgroups to discuss case specific issues, including culturally appropriate services. All ILP eligible youth receive the same opportunity to participate in ILP activities/services to develop the skills needed to become self-sufficient. For example, in San Diego County, ILS contractors work together to develop curriculum/workshops and are monitored by county staff to ensure that all youth receive similar services throughout the county's six regions.

Counties also collaborate with local tribes as well as other organizations such as: AmeriCorps, Job Corps, Tribal Star Gathering Interdisciplinary Trainings, U.S. Armed Forces, Regional Occupational Programs, Public Transportation Agencies, Employment Development, local community colleges and universities, financial institutions, California Youth Connection, etc. to meet the needs of tribal youth. San Bernardino County has a contract with one transportation company to provide transportation services to youth in the outlying regions who cannot attend workshops due to transportation. Shasta County has established mentors from various tribes who are willing to mentor tribal foster care youth.

According to the California Indian Child Welfare Association, a total of 46,522 youth in California under the age of 18 are Native American. Of the over 5,000 foster youth that age out each year in California, 400-500 of those youth are Native American.

The Statewide Standards for the ILP is one mechanism that provides guidance to the counties on fair and equitable provision of service to current and former foster youth, including Tribal youth. The ILP Narrative Report requires the counties to report the methods used to ensure that all youth have equitable access to services. Counties use a variety of methods to ensure that services are available to all youth, such as: providing transportation or bus pass, regionalizing activities, assessing location compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act, mailing information on a monthly basis to all eligible youth and their caregivers, direct contact with the youth, bi-lingual services, interpreters for hearing impaired youth. Some smaller counties are able to provide one-on-one services to youth to ensure that all of their needs are being met.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974

At this time, the CDSS does not have data in this regard. There are no identified Projects jointly funded with the CDSS under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless foster youth. However, the CDSS is aware that counties work with homeless shelters in their areas to provide homeless former foster youth with a safe place to stay until the youth can secure housing. To view the JJCPA Annual Report to Legislature 2009, please visit the following website:

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/DivisionsBoards/CSA/index.html>.

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Current and Former Foster Youth Involvement

The CDSS has made an ongoing effort since 1992 to include the input of current and former foster youth. The CDSS has, in every possible instance, made certain that foster youth participate in Departmental initiatives such as the BSC redesign of ILP, conferences or trainings, the development of the ILP/THPP/THP-Plus Regulations and the TILP.

Part 3: Training

The Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC)

The BSC methodology was identified as an effective approach that would assist counties with the goal of redefining and reshaping programs and services promoting permanency and preparation of foster youth for adulthood. California's BSC for ILP transformation has engaged ten counties and one state-level team to train on fast tracking best practices, protocols and policies for better preparing foster youth before they exit the system. The emphasis is on ensuring that each transitioning foster youth's individualized case plan will support all of their transition goals in the areas of permanence, education and employment.

The BSC/ILP transformation consists of four Learning Sessions for participating counties interspersed throughout the 18 months of active county team participation in the project. At these Learning Sessions county teams learn how to integrate transition planning, skill-building activities, and support into the daily lives of all transitioning foster youth. Transition services are also integrated into day-to-day case management, school, and other community-based activities to ensure all foster youth are supported in achieving their independent living goals.

The goals of the BSC/ILP Transformation are:

- Increase foster children's and youth's access to permanent homes and connections to communities, culture and important adults.
- Increase exits to permanency (reunification, adoption, legal guardianship) for youth ages 14 to 18 who are in care for 24 months or longer.
- Permanency and Lifelong Connections: Increase in foster youth and youth transitioning from foster care reporting that they have at least one family member or supportive adult with whom they feel they have a lifelong connection.
- Increase engagement of youth as true partners.
- Increase youth transitioning from foster care reporting that they are receiving community-based and experiential services and activities in preparation for their transition from foster care.
- Increase in foster youth transitioning from care making progress towards graduation from high school and post secondary readiness.
- Increase in foster youth transitioning from care receiving work experience, consistent with their self-identified career goals prior to leaving the foster care system.

Currently, BSC teams have been testing and developing new practices using the BSC's Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) methodology. These practices are designed to improve efficiency in their daily work and improve positive outcomes for youth in and out of foster care. There has been a strong focus on youth empowerment and strengthening youth-adult partnerships. County

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teams are taking a sample of youth in their target population and working intensively with these youth in helping them attain love and belonging-permanency for a lifetime. Teams are also testing ways to expand services and resources beyond the classroom and workshop setting, to serve youth in natural settings such as their homes, community, schools, workplace, etc. The last learning session will highlight relational permanency and real world learning as keys to transition success. Each county team will develop a plan for how they will incorporate and sustain their new practices to last beyond the BSC project and become integrated into their daily work. Participating counties will share the strategies learned during the BSC with all counties in order to improve outcomes for all youth.

California Connected By 25 Initiative (CC25)

The CC25 which began in 2005, is an F2F initiative designed to assist public welfare agencies and their communities in building comprehensive supports and services to address the needs of transition age foster youth. The goal of the initiative is that “through positive youth development and integrated systems of support and services, transitioning foster youth are connected by age 25 to the opportunities, experiences and support that will enable them to succeed throughout adulthood.” The initiative is part of a national CC25 work of the Youth Transition Funders Group. Currently, eight counties continue to participate in CC25: Fresno, Glen, Humboldt, Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano and Stanislaus.

The goal of the initiative has been that “through positive youth development and integrated systems of support and services, transitioning foster youth are connected by age 25 to the opportunities, experiences and support that will enable them to succeed throughout adulthood.” The initiative is part of a national CC25 work of the Youth Transition Funders Group.

CC25 counties are assisting in the development of CC25 values, tools and practices that have been used for building a comprehensive continuum which will improve outcomes for transitioning foster youth. CC25 counties are implementing strategies that can be replicated statewide to improve the adult transition experiences of all California’s foster care youth. The initiative is being developed to assist county child welfare agencies and their communities to build a comprehensive continuum of supports and services across seven key focus areas:

- K-12 Education
- Employment/Job Training/Postsecondary Education.
- Housing.
- Independent Living Skills Program.
- Financial Competency, Savings and Assets.
- Personal/Social Asset Development.
- Permanency.

Challenges for the multiple sites during 2009 included maintaining consistency with the Youth Advisory Boards, understanding how to support a Youth Empowerment Culture including recruitment of youth leaders, sustainability and retention of youth leaders, and ensuring youth are true partners on boards and in initiative work.

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Outcomes for sites included implementation of the CC25 Efforts to Outcome database. In order to address workload and duplication efforts for the sites, the Efforts to Outcome data elements are the same as the state's Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging out of Foster Care Statistical Report. The CDSS recently implemented this new data collection tool whereby counties must submit this report each quarter. The report collects data on youth who have aged out of foster care in that quarter and includes information on outcome related domains such as: high school completion, enrollment in college, employment, housing, and financial information.

Additional CC25 outcomes during this reporting period included close alignment with other statewide initiatives including the BSC on ILP Transformation and the California Permanency for Youth Project, and greater infusion of youth involvement within the nine BSC sites.

The next phase for the CC25 includes developing a framework that is based on lessons learned, the current economic climate, and future direction to sustain the initiative at a statewide level. The focus will be on youth leadership and caregiver engagement.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

For FFY 2009 through the Chancellor's Office, training was provided to over 5,000 kinship caregivers and 10,000 foster parents statewide. Trainings related to helping caregivers prepare foster youth for independent living focused on topics such as: cultural diversity and sensitivity, accessing education and health services, adolescent pregnancy prevention and self-esteem.

Part 4: The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

The CDSS convened a NYTD workgroup consisting of state, county and probation employees, as well as, former foster youth, CWDA and other stakeholders to develop an implementation plan. The NYTD workgroup meets on a weekly basis and oversees the tasks that must be accomplished for implementation. The workgroup has completed the requirements for necessary changes to the SACWIS to accommodate the data collection needs for NYTD. International Business Machines (IBM) has begun work on system changes and it is expected that the SACWIS will be ready by September 1, 2010.

The CDSS is near the end of the process of negotiating a contract with for collecting the survey data from the 17, 19 and 21 year olds. UCD will be responsible for administering the surveys (baseline and follow-up), following up on non-respondents, sending the data to the CDSS, tracking youth and reminding youth of the follow-up surveys.

The CDSS and UCD have collaborated with the Foster Care Ombudsman's Office to work with former foster youth in preparing and designing Public Service announcements to increase foster youths' awareness about NYTD. UCD will also be working with the guardian scholars program and foster youth involved with the California Youth Connection to develop other statewide outreach efforts. Additionally, the CDSS included NYTD information on the flyer that is sent to ILP eligible youth on a semi-annual basis.

Part 5: Education and Training Voucher Program

The CDSS, in its continuing efforts to assist foster youth in making a successful transition to self-sufficiency and receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment, provides oversight to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) which administers the California Chafee ETV. The ETV provides resources specifically to meet the educational and training needs of youth who are transitioning out of foster care. Eligible youth can be awarded a grant up to \$5,000 per school year and the grant does not need to be paid back. The awards are intended to supplement, not supplant, any grant funds that the student may otherwise be entitled to receive. The total grant funding may not exceed the student's cost of attendance.

To qualify, the youth must have been in foster care between the ages of 16-18 and have not reached their 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year. The student must be enrolled in an eligible career, technical school or college course of study for one year or at least half- time and must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving the grants.

The ETV program will provide eligible youth access to educational and vocational resources through reimbursable costs for:

- Tuition at an institution of higher education, not to exceed the lesser of \$5000 or the total cost of attendance.
- The purchase of technical equipment, to include, but not limited to, computers, calculators, and supplies associated with course work.
- Transportation.
- Childcare.
- Rent.
- For the 2008/09 school year, 3,136 youth were awarded ETV grants. Any unused/unclaimed grant money is returned and redistributed to other eligible youth. The CDSS sends out Chafee information to eligible youth semi-annually.

CSAC reports the total Chafee ETV awards as follows:

Table 7: Chafee ETV Awards

Academic School Year 08/09, as of October 27, 2009

	Number of Awards	Average Award Amount
New Awards:	1,429	\$4,314
Renewal Awards:	1,707	\$4,455
Total of All Awards:	3,136	\$4,395

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES TRAINING PLAN

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

California's state-supervised, county-administered child welfare services system presents unique challenges and opportunities for developing and delivering training to various professional and paraprofessional child welfare staff and providers throughout the State. In SFY 2009/10, the child welfare budget was reduced by \$80 million, and the impact to the training budget was a 33 percent reduction totaling almost \$2.9 million. As a result, social workers, supervisors and other leadership staff in counties did not receive the anticipated training in a variety of areas.

The CDSS, with assistance from the CalSWEC and with the concurrence of the CWDA, established the Statewide Training and Education Committee (STEC), which is comprised of representatives from the CDSS, CWDA, RTAs, CalSWEC, Inter-University Consortium, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' Training Unit, county staff development, Title IV-E Stipend Program, representatives from tribes/tribal organizations and unions. The STEC has continued to be utilized as a key communication venue in achieving the State's new strategies and goals. Meetings have continued quarterly with this group.

Principles and expected outcomes identified by the ACF guided much of the planning for the second round of the PIP, which was developed in response to the federal CFSR, and in the development of California's CFSR. The specific strategies, goals, action steps are included in this report as part of the Completed PIP Action Steps (pages 27-32). Changes have been made to Primary Strategies I, IV, V and VI during the 2009/10 SFY. The following section includes updated details of activities that occurred over FFY 2009/10 for training programs, services and activities identified in the five-year staff development and training plan.

The State Program's Contract Manager determines the allocation of costs to benefiting programs based on an analysis of the training topics and the target audience. PL 110-351 allows for the training of a broader audience. The target audience is necessary to identify those who are and are not necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E programs; for example, service providers, hotline and emergency response workers would not be necessary for the operation of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs. Some programs have additional requirements which must also be considered. For instance, Foster Care eligible training costs are allocated to benefiting programs determined by course curriculum and participants, and the costs must be discounted by the State Foster Care caseload ratio. The activities in all IV-E eligible training contracts must meet the applicable requirements established in 45 CFR 1356.60 and 235.60-66 (a). Identification of training topics and participants is used to determine whether the activity is eligible for FFP, and if so, at what rate. The FFP training rate varies effective October 7, 2008, from 55 to 75 percent, and 50 percent FFP rate for administrative activities.

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All training contracts reflect the appropriate allocation of Title IV-E dollars for the application of the 75% enhanced training rate, the 50% administrative rate, and the appropriate phased in training rate per Public Law 110-351, discussed below and further outlined in ACL NO. 09-80 (December 28, 2009).

The “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008” (PL 110-351) provides for additional categories of trainees eligible to receive Title IV-E short-term training. Training can be provided to relative guardians, State-licensed or State-approved child welfare agencies providing services, members of staff of abuse and neglect courts, agency attorneys, attorneys representing children or parents, guardians ad litem, and court-appointed special advocates representing children in proceedings of such courts.

The Federal Financial Participation rate for the expanded audience will phase in over five Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) as follows:

FFY 2009 10/1/08 – 9/30/09 55%

FFY 2010 10/1/09 – 9/30/10 60%

FFY 2011 10/1/10 – 9/30/11 65%

FFY 2012 10/1/11 – 9/30/12 70%

FFY 2013 10/1/12 – 9/30/13 75%

On page 54 of the CFSP for FFY 2010-2014, several child welfare groups and individuals were listed as being eligible for training under PL 110-351. CDSS is now adding “CalWORKs Linkages staff” to the previously submitted list.

Ongoing Training Activities:

Regional Training Academies (RTAs)

Each RTA has continued to deliver a comprehensive, competency-based program that addresses the training needs of new and experienced social workers, supervisors, and management staff. New social workers and new supervisors receive statewide standardized training. With the exception of the Northern Regional Training Academy, RTAs have experienced a decline in the number of common core training classes requested by the counties as a result of California’s budget crisis. Few new social workers and supervisors have been hired this year throughout California and staff from Adult Protective Services and In Home Support Services have, in some counties, as these counties experienced fiscal challenges and layoffs, moved their staff into roles as social workers in the child welfare system. As a result, common core training has been delivered for this staff that are new to child welfare, and RTAs have provided advanced and specialized classes to the counties to meet the required ongoing training requirements for the other staff within the counties.

The RTAs and Inter-University Consortium/Department of Children and Family Services (UC/DCFS), in support of the CFSR/PIP, have provided additional advanced supervision training including SDM modules, Safe Measures, and How to Effectively Use Data to the counties. Also, in support of the CFSR/PIP, the RTAs, the IUC/DCFS, and CalSWEC have been revising the

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common core to include effective implementation of participatory case planning and decision-making practices throughout the life of each case. Also, an advanced training module has been developed pertaining to strategies for engaging fathers, Linkages training has been provided, and training has been enhanced, developed, and delivered to strengthen implementation of the statewide safety assessment system.

Due to the counties' diminished travel funds, counties are asking the RTAs to train locally. In some regions, slightly more than half of the training has been (and will continue to be) delivered in the counties where the staff work.

Counties have also expressed an interest in e-learning. In the Southern Region, an e-learning committee has been developed, and meetings have occurred with the counties to work on technology and the accessibility of e-learning for each county. Eight classes will be completed by June 30, 2010, and will be accessible by the counties in southern California. The Northern Regional Academy and IUC/DCFS have been delivering e-learning modules in their counties for some time, and they continue to develop modules, as needed to supplement the common core curriculum.

The RTAs anticipate continuing to deliver services in a variety of modalities. Training modalities include classroom-based training, training events for a multidisciplinary audience of child welfare community professionals, field training and e-learning. The RTAs address issues of staff retention and collaborate with counties to strategize on how training can be used as a strategy in the retention of staff.

CalSWEC Coordination Project

There are no substantive changes to the CalSWEC Coordination Project. The CalSWEC coordinates with the RTAs and IUC/DCFS as noted in the CFSP and is involved with the development, enhancement, and hosting (on their website) of the common core curriculum in support of the CFSP/PIP.

The following applies to the RTA's, the Inter-University consortium, and CalSWEC Coordination Project:

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the foster care program: referral to services; preparation for and participation in judicial determinations; placement of the child; development of case plans; case reviews; and case management and supervision.

Setting/Venue

The RTAs and IUC provide training to all 58 counties at specified locations within their regions.

Training Duration

Training activities are short-term. The duration of specific training programs varies according to type of training offered and the audience to be served.

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Training Activity Provider

The RTAs and IUC, with coordination activities provided by CalSWEC.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

The number of days and hours of training provided varies according to the regionalized need. Approximately 30,000 workers will be trained.

Training Audience

The RTAs provide training to new and experienced child welfare line staff, supervisors, managers, and others working with children and families receiving child welfare services. Foundational courses are provided for new child welfare workers and supervisors. Advanced courses for experienced child welfare workers and supervisors are also available. Specialty training is provided that is focused on specific topics and worker needs such as, but not limited to: use of the CWS/CMS; child welfare practice integration; the role of paraprofessionals and public health nurses in child welfare.

Total Cost Estimate

\$12,704,686 RTA/CalSWEC (total funds), including university in-kind contributions. IUC funding is approximately \$10,573,667 (total funds), including university in-kind contributions.

Cost Allocation Methodology

The federal Title IV-E rate funding is matched by SGF and university contributions. Title IV-E is drawn down at variable levels dependent upon the activity; 75 percent may be drawn down for training and 50 percent for administration. Title IV-E will also be matched at the transitional rate for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009/14. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the nonfederal discount will be applied to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of How Training Meets Goals/Objectives of the CFSP

The CalSWEC, IUC/LA, and the RTAs are addressing and updating the common core social worker and supervisor training to address the PIP strategies. Upon completion and piloting of the new revision, they will provide training based on the new curriculum.

CalSWEC Title IV-E BSW & MSW Stipend Program

For those students who have not been able to find jobs in California upon completion of their academic programs due to the decrease in county hiring as a result of the California state budget, Stipend Program graduates have begun working within nonprofit organizations as part or all of their payback responsibilities.

In partnership with the Stipend Program, some Universities are developing Distance Learning opportunities for students.

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Other than an increase to the amount of funding increased to support students as tuition prices increase throughout California and to support a distance learning staff position at CalSWEC, there are no substantive changes to the CalSWEC Title IV-E BSW & MSW Stipend Program.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E foster care program: referral to services, preparation for and participation in judicial determinations, placement of the child; development of case plans, case reviews; case management and supervision, and costs related to data collection and reporting.

Setting/Venue

Twenty university departments of Social Work/Welfare throughout the state.

Training Duration

Duration of training varies according to the type of training offered. For example, a fulltime student would take two academic years, and a part-time student would take three academic years to complete stipend program.

Training Activity Provider

The CalSWEC, a coalition of the twenty graduate deans of social work, the fifty eight county welfare directors; representatives of Mental Health, the National Association of Social Workers, and private foundations manage this project.

Approximate number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

The number of days and hours vary depending upon the duration of the program.

Target Audience

Current CWS employees and members of underrepresented ethnic minority groups.

Total Cost Estimate

\$30,977,572

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate and local match is contributed by participating public institutions of higher learning.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of the CFSP

This training emphasizes that case plans are developed jointly with parents and children/youth. The training also focuses on such topics as family engagement, case planning, concurrent planning, visitation requirements and the termination of the parental rights process.

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Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice (RCFFP)

Advanced training has been designed and delivered in the following areas to support the CFSP: Family Engagement, Family Finding, and Permanency (including TPR), concurrent planning, and case planning).

Economic conditions at all levels of government in California have impacted the ability of county probation departments to travel and/or attend training. Of concern are probation departments' challenges of fully implementing family finding and bringing family (kin and fictive kin) together. An increasing number of county specific trainings have been provided in numerous counties to compensate for the inability of county employees to travel.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E foster care program: referral to services; placement of the child; development of the case plan; case reviews; case management and supervision; recruitment and licensing of foster homes and institutions; and monitor and conduct periodic evaluations.

Setting/Venue

Training is provided at the RCFFP, which is operated out of the Center for Human Services Training and Development at University California, Davis, and various locations throughout the state.

Training Duration

This training activity is short-term. The duration of specific training programs varies according to type of training offered and the audience to be served.

Training Activity Provider

University California, Davis.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Length of training varies according to training topic and audience needs.

Training Audience

The RCFFP provides training to county child welfare workers, probation officers, and private and public providers that are licensed by the state and serve Title IV-E eligible children.

Total Cost Estimate

\$800,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E enhanced rate, administrative rate, transitional rate, (for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009/14), and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the nonfederal discount will be applied to account for the non-federal caseload.

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Description of how training meets goals/objectives of the CFSP

This training emphasizes that case plans are developed jointly with parents and children/youth. The training also focuses on such topics as family engagement, case planning, concurrent planning, visitation requirements, and the TPR process.

Wraparound Integrated Services

As noted in Strategy IV above, in support of the CFSR/PIP, in 2009, three additional counties (Mariposa, Stanislaus, and Sonoma) have adopted the Wraparound Planning Model, and four counties are in planning stages with the CDSS Wraparound consultants.

The bi-annual Wraparound Institute (3-days) to provide learning opportunities to county and provider staff occurred on June 7-9, 2010 in Anaheim.

Allowable Title IV-E

These training are allowable under Title IV-E as they are part of case management.

Setting/Venue

These trainings are provided at various county sites throughout the State.

Training Duration

These trainings are short term in duration. The majority of the trainings are one day.

Training Activity Provider

The Center for Family-Focused Practice is the contractor.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

70 days.

Training Audience

county staff, eligible child care providers, Parent Partners, and community-based organizations.

Total Estimate Cost

\$368,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced and transitional rate (for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009 to 2014), and GF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for costs associated with the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP.

The Integrated Services and Wraparound Planning process will ensure that children are placed in the lowest level placement with family or a non-related extended family member, which will

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help achieve permanency and well-being. The Early Start training will train county staff to have the skills to access and refer children to early intervention providers who may assist the children and families to achieve well-being.

Wraparound Technical Assistance Contract

This contract no longer exists due to the 33 percent reduction in the training budget.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the foster care program: referral to services; preparation and participation in judicial determinations; placement of the child; development of the case plan; case management; and supervision.

Setting/Venue

These trainings are usually offered at county sites statewide and provided regionally.

Training Duration

This training is on-going and short term.

Training Activity Provider

Request for Proposals did not go out.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Half-day trainings are provided to cover a specific issue; full day trainings are provided to cover issues that are more complex or to address several topics. A four day Training for Trainers curriculum occurs at least twice per year. Depending on the number of days required for each training, approximately 85-125 sessions will be provided.

Target Audience

Representatives of county child welfare, probation, behavioral health, education, and drug and alcohol agencies; non-profit provider agencies licensed by the state; judges; lawyers; families; and interested community members.

Total Cost Estimate

\$360,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to the Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of How Training Meets Goals/Objectives of CFSP

This training promotes safety of children by providing services to allow children to remain at home, helps sustain permanence by reducing foster care re-entries, assists in ensuring that the

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needs of the family and child are assessed and that appropriate services are provided, and helps to ensure that case plans are developed jointly with parents and children/youth and supported by collateral agencies.

County Staff Development and Training

As noted previously, most counties have experienced a decline in hiring, but the counties do continue with their ongoing and CFSR/PIP-related training. Counties are reporting to the state through the Annual County Training Plan any additional training needs they are interested in having the RTAs provide to their staff.

Allowable Title IV-E

County staff development and training costs are claimed pursuant to Division 14 Cost regulations.

Setting/Venue

County settings statewide.

Training Duration

This training is on-going and short-term.

Training Activity Provider

County staff development organizations and/or contract providers.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Length of training varies according to training topic and audience needs.

Training Audience

County child welfare workers.

Total Cost Estimate

\$45,000,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

Costs are allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate, administrative rate, transitional rate; (for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009-2014), and to SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

This training supports The CDSS's vision that every child in California lives in a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families and strong communities. Child welfare training provided directly by county agencies enhances the ability of social workers to receive comprehensive training.

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National Council on Crime and Delinquency/Children's Research Center (NCCD/CRC)

Increasingly, the CDSS staff and managers are expected to be able to use data, information, and reports to guide decision making, consultation to counties, and to determine effective practice at the services delivery level. The CRC has designed Safe Measures to support the C-CFSR continuous quality improvement process which will aid the CDSS staff in providing training to all 58 counties. The focus of the CRC training contract will be on data collection and analysis, reporting techniques aimed at ensuring compliance with all state and federal requirements, and CFSR PIP implementation. The contract provides:

Support PIP implementation and goal attainment: designing and implementing procedures and software that will assist in the extraction, review, and analysis of quantitative data as well as reporting techniques. The CRC will provide training for state staff in order to analyze progress in meeting statewide goals and to assist in identification of issues, strengths, and progress of the Program Improvement Plan implementation.

Support of Data Analysts: to ensure that both teams (CDSS and CRC) use consistent and complimentary analysis and algorithms when reporting on CWS/CMS data. The CRC will create a special menu accessible only by the CDSS, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau (CWDAB), to use Safe Measures to view reports developed by CWDAB.

Support the CDSS County Consultants: to monitor performance by county on federal and state outcome measures the CRC will provide an updated release of SafeMeasures which will allow for multi-county dashboards and mapping and related technical assistance.

Intervention with Counties: CRC will provide targeted support related to use of SafeMeasures to counties. Training includes report development at the case/caseload level, use of SafeMeasures as a management tool, an orientation/training refresher in system capabilities, and use of SafeMeasures to achieve outcome goals.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the foster care program: placement of the child; development of the case plan; case management and supervision; costs related to data collection, reporting, and monitoring; and conducting periodic evaluations.

Setting/Venue

Training provided statewide.

Training Duration

This training is short-term.

Training Activity Provider

Children's Research Center.

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Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Number of days/hours will vary according to training topic offered and the scheduled location of training for child welfare staff.

Training Audience

Child Welfare Workers and state Staff.

Total Cost Estimate

\$75,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

This training activity supports the objectives of ensuring safety, promoting permanency and improving the statewide quality assurance system. Counties and the CDSS staff will be able to better track county and statewide data to monitor outcomes.

Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver Education Program

Training of Resource Families (foster parents and relative caregivers) continue to be provided though an interagency agreement between the CDSS and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (COCCC). Other than the decrease in the total cost estimate, there are no substantive changes to this program.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the recruitment and licensing of foster homes and institutions category necessary for the administration of the foster care program.

Setting/Venue

The training is held at community colleges located statewide.

Training Duration

This training activity is short-term. The duration of specific training programs varies according to type of training offered and the audience to be served.

Training Activity Provider

Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Currently, the existing pre-service training is designed around the mandated topics of training according to Health and Safety Code section 1529.2. Twelve hours of training are included

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before the placement of a child in the licensed foster home, and 8 hours of in-service training occur per year. The number of hours of training required varies from the minimum required hours. The number of hours of training required varies from the minimum of 8 hours to as high as 30, with most counties requiring 12 to 18 hours of pre-service training for foster parents. It is estimated that over 7,000 hours of training will be provided by community colleges under the COCCC.

Total Cost Estimate

The total Title IV-E funds budgeted for this training program over the next three years is \$15,245,721.

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate, SGF and Proposition 98 funds. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of the CFSP

This training is designed to develop and support caregivers to enhance their ability to promote the health and safety of children and youth placed in foster care.

Substance Abuse (SA) Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infant Program (Previously Options for Recovery)

Other than the decrease in the total cost estimate, there are no substantive changes to this program.

The SA/HIV Infant program is funded to provide specialized recruitment, training and respite care services to counties for foster parents and federally-eligible relative providers who care for infants and children aged newborn to 60 months who are born substance-exposed and/or HIV positive and who are court-dependent children. Currently, 10 counties receive funding for participation in the SA/HIV Infant program.

Allowable Title IV-E

This program falls under the categories of training, recruitment and licensing of foster homes necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E program.

Setting/ Venue

Various.

Training Duration

Various.

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Training Activity Provider

Counties participating in the SA/HIV Infant Program administer training activities independently.

Approximate number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Thirty three hours of core training curriculum is required from foster families upon initial participation in the program.

Target Audience

Prospective foster families with a special emphasis on caring for infants, who are born substance-exposed and/or HIV positive.

Total Cost Estimate

A total of \$4,394,266 is made available for the administration of this program. Training is one component.

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate and SGF, for those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals and objectives of the CFSP

This training activity promotes the assessment of the child and family's needs and assists in improving the availability of services.

Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

The KSSP continues to function as a collaboration between among county, community-based organizations, and private, non-profit organizations to provide services to kinship caregivers and the children in their care. General training was presented at the regional conferences and may include workshops such as how to assist caregivers in obtaining legal guardianship, how to write grants to generate additional funds, or how to establish support groups for care providers. The KSSP contractor also provided training which is county specific and is tailored to the needs of the particular KSSP site based on a work plan established by the contractor and the county. These trainings focused on various subjects ranging from instruction about using the Kin database to learning how to reach those in need of services.

Allowable IV-B

\$225,000

Setting/Venue

Twenty counties currently operate a KSSP. The training provider conducts training and technical assistance at the KSSP sites within each of the 20 counties. The training provider also

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conducts three regional conferences per fiscal year: one for the Bay Area counties/sites, one for the northern California counties/sites, and one for the counties/sites in southern California.

Training Duration

Short Term or Long Term.

Training Activity Provider

Edgewood Center for Children and Families.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Each county with an existing KSSP may have county and site personnel attend a two-day regional training for their area. The Bay Area and Southern California trainings were in October 2009, and the Northern California training was held in February 2010; a total of 120 participants attended these trainings. In addition to the training provided at the regional conferences, training and technical assistance are provided by telephone, email, other written means and via onsite visits on an ongoing, as-needed basis throughout the term of the training period.

Training and technical assistance are also provided related to data collection and reporting activities. The number of days/hours varies per county and per site as the T/TA is specific to the county's program and needs.

Target Audience

County and private nonprofit personnel who administer and/or operate the KSSP sites and relative caregivers/volunteers who help staff the KSSP sites.

Total Cost Estimate

\$225,000 per year (100 percent PSSF funds).

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-B.

Description of How Training Meets Goals and Objectives of the CFSP

The KSSP promotes the well-being of children and families by providing funds for county kinship support services programs. These programs provide community-based family support services to relative caregivers and the court-dependent children placed in their homes, and to children who are at risk of dependency or delinquency and their relative caregivers. Training and technical assistance is provided to county and non-profit personnel operating KSSP sites so that they can provide the most effective and efficient services to children and their relative caregivers. Support services provided via this program contribute to improved outcomes related to safety, stability, permanency and the well-being of both dependent and non-dependent, at-risk children. The program also improves the potential for a child to experience additional connections with other family members through supportive services to the relative caregiver which strengthen stability of the placement.

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Training and technical assistance to the counties contributed to local KSSPs' ability to provide services to over 8,000 clients (SFY 2008/2009 data).

University of California, Davis (UCD): Adoptions Training

Due to administrative delays, during SFY 2009, the CDSS Adoptions Services Bureau did not have a contract with an entity to provide adoptions training. During SFY 2010, the CDSS entered into contract with the UCD to develop a training program that will increase District Office staff competencies.

Each training section will be evaluated and covers topics such as detecting home study red flags, evidenced-based therapy: effective interventions for children with challenging behaviors; answers regarding father status; preparing for contested/contentious Juvenile Court Hearings or Investigative Hearings; Ask the Experts about Testifying and Preparing for Hearings; and Making Tough Decisions and Testifying Successfully: A Mock Trial/Hearing Involving a Foster Adopt Parent with an Allegation of Physical Abuse.

Training providers are the UCD psychologists such as the mental health director of the child abuse treatment center; private mental health trainers, attorneys from the Department of Justice, and County Counsel. Adoption specialists, supervisors, and managers are expected to be trained during a two day (16 hours) training offered twice, once in May, 2010, and again in June, 2010, at the UCD Medical School Campus in Sacramento. Continuing Education Units will be offered as well for licensed staff.

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The following table outlines the measureable objectives and methods of evaluating goals:

Measurable Objective	Activities to Accomplish Measureable Objectives	Staff Responsible	Time Line	Methods for Evaluating Goals
Conduct a mid-year evaluation of training activities and a needs assessment to develop and implement a training plan for the final quarter of FY 2009/10.	Review training evaluations and solicit input from ASB and District Office managers and staff regarding expansion and modification of existing training components.	UC Program Director and Program Assistant	12/09 to 6/11	The mid-year Training Plan for ASB staff will reflect findings and recommendations for changes/additions from ASB and District Office managers and staff.
In cooperation with ASB managers and staff, identify and implement relevant training and staff development activities.	<p>Coordinate and host four days of staff development and training on four occasions by 6/30/10 to accommodate 75-100 staff at each training. Training will consist of four, two-day conferences.</p> <p>Prioritize and select training topics based on needs assessment findings and evaluations of prior training.</p> <p>Prepare training outlines and agendas.</p> <p>Identify and contract for facilities.</p> <p>Identify and contract with speakers.</p> <p>Coordinate logistics for each training.</p> <p>Develop and implement registration process.</p> <p>Send out notification to District Offices and ASB.</p>	UC Program Director and Program Assistant	7/09 to 6/10	<p>80 percent of identified ASB staff will register and attend sessions.</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative data will indicate 80 percent of participants rated presentations as organized, useful and applicable to job responsibilities.</p> <p>Training evaluation, pre and post tests, and follow up survey in two to six months consisting of questions with Likert scales will indicate integration of material into practice, expanded knowledge, and improved skills of 80 percent of the participants.</p> <p>100 percent of applicants who register for CEUs will receive requisite documentation within 90 days of attendance.</p>

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Measurable Objective	Activities to Accomplish Measureable Objectives	Staff Responsible	Time Line	Methods for Evaluating Goals
	<p>Prepare materials, handouts, and arrange for equipment.</p> <p>Arrange for continuing education units.</p> <p>Collect and compile evaluation and CEU data from participants.</p> <p>Provide follow up consultation as requested.</p>			
Conduct a mid-year evaluation of training activities and a needs assessment to develop and implement a training plan for the final quarter of FY 2009/10.	Review training evaluations and solicit input from ASB and DO managers and staff regarding expansion and modification of existing training components.	UC Program Director and Program Assistant	12/09 to 6/11	The mid-year Training Plan for ASB staff will reflect findings and recommendations for changes/additions from ASB and DO managers and staff.
In cooperation with ASB managers and staff, identify and implement relevant training and staff development activities.	<p>Coordinate and host four days of staff development and training on four occasions by 6/30/10 to accommodate 75-100 staff at each training. Training will consist of four, two-day conferences.</p> <p>Prioritize and select training topics based on needs assessment findings and evaluations of prior training.</p> <p>Prepare training outlines and agendas.</p> <p>Identify and contract for</p>	UC Program Director and Program Assistant	7/09 to 6/10	<p>80 percent of identified ASB staff will register and attend sessions.</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative data will indicate 80 percent of participants rated presentations as organized, useful and applicable to job responsibilities.</p> <p>Training evaluation, pre and post tests, and follow up survey in two to six months consisting of questions with Likert scales will indicate integration of material into practice, expanded knowledge, and improved skills of 80 percent of the participants.</p>

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Measurable Objective	Activities to Accomplish Measureable Objectives	Staff Responsible	Time Line	Methods for Evaluating Goals
	facilities. Identify and contract with speakers. Coordinate logistics for each training. Develop and implement registration process. Send out notification to DOs and ASB. Prepare materials, handouts, and arrange for equipment. Arrange for continuing education units. Collect and compile evaluation and CEU data from participants. Provide follow up consultation as requested.			100 percent of applicants who register for CEUs will receive requisite documentation within 90 days of attendance.

Allowable Title IV-E

Our program is necessary for the administration of the child welfare programs which includes referral to services, preparation and participation in judicial determinations, placement of the child, development of case plans, case reviews, case management and supervision.

Setting/Venue

UCD is organizing the setting of the trainings. The trainings will likely take place in Sacramento.

Training Duration

The trainings are scheduled as two-day trainings over a four-day period to accommodate staff from seven district offices.

Training Activity Provider

UCD consultants, private trainers, legal staff from a county, and the General's Office. Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Two days per training (16 hours).

Two trainings needed to accommodate 120 Adoptions Specialists.

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Training Audience

Approximately 120 Adoptions Specialists from the seven District Offices.

Total Cost Estimate

\$48,396

Cost Allocation Methodology

Training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate and SGF for those cost allocated to Title IV-E. The non-federal discount rate will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Judicial Review & Technical Assistance (JRTA)

The CDSS contracts with the Judicial Council of California, the AOC, to provide specialized training through the JRTA project. This project provides statewide training and technical assistance on court findings required for Title IV-E eligibility. Trainings and technical assistance include comprehensive case file reviews conducted during multi-day JRTA-team site visits.

During the 2009/10 SFY, title IV-E site visits were made to the juvenile courts in 37 counties (the 14 most populated courts and 23 of the remaining 44 courts with the remainder to be visited next year). These site visits comprised approximately 200 training days. During each site visit, the assigned attorney conducted a comprehensive review of a random sample of juvenile court foster care or placement files, observed courtroom proceedings, and met with judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, juvenile probation staff and child welfare staff to discuss the data collected and observations made during the site visit. The assigned attorney also provided educational material and information related to a variety of topics including Title IV-E finding requirements, well-being and permanency related issues, such as, meeting the child's educational needs, finding life-long connections for youth, engaging youth in permanency planning, and using the ILP to help the youth plan for the future. Following each site visit, each jurisdiction's judicial officers, child welfare and probation agencies receive a detailed report outlining site visit findings and needed areas of improvement with respect to Title IV-E findings.

JRTA attorneys also conducted additional trainings tailored to meet the individual needs of judicial officers, clerks, attorneys, social workers, and probation officers. These trainings focused on several of the key Title IV-E court findings that are federally required, with an emphasis on ensuring that judicial officers are taking the appropriate steps to finalize permanent plans for each child in foster care, and that children and their families are involved in the case planning process. Trainings were conducted in Humboldt, Imperial, Marin, Mono, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara counties.

JRTA attorneys also responded to telephone and e-mail enquiries regarding title IV-E and related issues such as timeline compliance, case planning, and report requirements from judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, juvenile probation staff and child welfare staff on a regular basis.

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Additionally, JRTA participated in the 2009 Title IV-E Review that was conducted in September of 2009 as previously discussed on page 23. The purpose of the review was to assess the State's adherence to eligibility criteria for child and provider and to validate the State's financial claims to ensure that appropriate payments were made on behalf of eligible children and to eligible providers. Eighty cases were reviewed and it was determined that California's IV-E foster care maintenance program was not in substantial compliance with Federal child and provider eligibility requirements. Six cases were found to be in error. These error cases included Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) linkage, reasonable efforts to finalize the child's permanency plan, and safety considerations not met.

Due to the fact that California's Title IV-E foster care maintenance program is not in substantial compliance with the Federal child and provider eligibility requirements for the period of October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, California is required to develop a program improvement plan, specific to this topic, to correct the areas found to be in non-compliance.

During SFY 2010/11 JRTA, jointly with the CDSS, will be conducting training and monitoring for the counties on the identified error cases in the 2009 Title IV-E audit, as part of the Title IV-E PIP. JRTA will also focus site visit and technical assistance efforts on those counties that performed poorly in their previous reviews. JRTA has also developed a new Information Sheet and file review protocol designed to address the one judicial finding error that was identified during the 2009 IV-E Review.

Allowable Title IV-E

This project is funded at the 75 percent enhanced federal financial participation rate for CWS Title IV-E Training.

Setting/Venue

Training is provided in close proximity to courthouse facilities to facilitate judicial staff participation statewide.

Training Duration

Duration of trainings is dependent on the initial review of court files to determine the level of current compliance with Title IV-E. The training is ongoing and long-term and will continue throughout the period covered in this five-year plan.

Training Activity Provider

The Judicial Council of California, Administration of the Courts.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

255 days per year.

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Training Audience

The Judicial Council (the contractor) provides technical assistance to judges, court staff, county welfare and probation department staff, attorneys involved in dependency and delinquency proceedings, and CASAs. Numbers of staff vary from county to county.

Total Cost Estimate

\$2,755,623.00

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate, transitional rate (for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009 to 2014), and SFG. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

The JRTA project supports the CDSS' goals of ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children. JRTA staff train on several of the key Title IV-E court findings that are federally required. Training also enhances the ability of judges to ensure that the county is taking appropriate steps toward finalizing a permanency plan for each child in foster care, and that children and their families are involved in case planning.

Independent Living Program Transformation Breakthrough Series Collaborative (ILP/BSC)

The ILP/BSC is using the breakthrough series methodology to transform the California Independent Living Program. The ILP/BSC has been engaging 10 counties and one state-level team which has focused on fast tracking practices, protocols and policies for foster youth before they exit the foster care system. The emphasis has been on ensuring that each youth receives an individualized transition plan which will support all of their goals in achieving permanence, education and employment.

Allowable Title IV-E

The purpose of the implementation of the California ILP/BSC has been to expand participants' practice knowledge around permanency, education and employment and to guide county team development in action planning to move local ILP transformation forward. Use of Title IV-E funds as required under 45 CFR 1356.60(b).

Setting/Venue

Various.

Training Duration

The ILP/BSC contract goes from October 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. Participating counties have been receiving ongoing trainings and technical assistance through the duration of the contract. The ILP/BSC series has hosted four Learning Sessions (convenings) with participating counties to

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build on their understanding and practice skills, give opportunity for shared learning across county sites, and develop action plans for their continuing ILP Transformation work in their individual counties.

Training Activity Provider

Training will be provided by the contractor, CFPIC, who will subcontract with New Ways to Work for some of the implementation of training and technical assistance to participating counties.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Training and technical assistance has been provided at the county level on a regular basis. Four larger Learning Sessions were planned in which the county teams collaborate to build on their understanding and practice skills in learning environments that facilitate shared learning across county sites, and development of action plans for individual ILP transformation work in their county.

Training Audience

Audience will be county child welfare workers and other county staff who are identified in the implementation or support of ILP/BSC.

Total Cost Estimate

\$1,796,778

Mechanism for Expenditure

Standard contract.

Cost Allocation Methodology

The ILP/BSC is allocated to the Title IV-E enhanced (direct training and activities) and administrative rates (general administration/activities outside of training) and philanthropic funds.

Description of How Training Meets Goals/Objectives of CFSP

Ten county teams and one state team were trained on an ILP Transformation framework developed for the BSC which guides sites in their testing and implementation of practices supporting youth, caregiver and community partnerships to achieve permanency, education and employment for all foster youth. Each team developed a core and extended team that reflects a cross-system approach locally, and completed a self-assessment and a measurement plan. As of June 2009, four, in-person two day Learning Sessions were conducted in which all the teams gathered for training, the refining of identifying small tests of changes in practice, identifying ways of spreading practice improvements and the development of action plans.

The final convening of the ILP/BSC included representation from 48 counties. The State collaborated and joined funding with the Child and Family Policy Institute Consortium to

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facilitate the annual statewide ILP Institute. The original counties were able to share the lessons learned and best practices. The group collectively agreed to continue their work with a future focus on caregiver engagement.

Participating Teams: State, Butte, Fresno, Los Angeles, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Solano.

The final statewide convening occurred on May 5 and 6, 2010 in Sacramento. As a result, a final report of findings will not be available until the winter of 2011.

Fiscal Academy

The purpose of the UCD Fiscal Academy contract is to provide program and fiscal academy training for county agencies that serve and/or support children and families by providing participants with the fundamentals of child welfare services funding, allocations, claiming, and budgeting. The training also introduces new changes in federal and or state law that impact both programmatic and fiscal management policymaking at the state and local level.

The UCD Fiscal Academy provided participants with the fundamentals of child welfare services funding, allocations, claiming, and budgeting. The training introduced new changes in federal and or state law that impact both programmatic and fiscal management policymaking at the state and local level. Participating counties gained the knowledge and skills to better use their combined resources to achieve better outcomes for children and to provide ongoing funding to evidence-based programs that support these outcomes.

Evidence of UCD Fiscal Academy progress can be found in the course evaluations which are completed by the Fiscal Academy participants. In 2007, only 66 percent of the participants believed the course was valuable. Recommendations from these evaluations requested blending more programmatic training, adding a perspective from other counties/states and updating the training materials. The UCD Fiscal Academy training was updated to accommodate these recommendations by adding program training such DR guidance, which is developing a broader set of responses to reports of possible child abuse or neglect. The UCD Fiscal Academy also created a Counties/States best practices panel and worked with the CDSS to ensure all training material was current. As a result of these changes the 2009 Fiscal Academy, evaluations improved to 85 percent of the participants believing the course was valuable.

These 2007 and 2009 evaluation results demonstrate the continued importance of the UCD Fiscal Academy to provide training, guidance and clarification to county agencies. For the future, the CDSS is examining resources to hire a consultant that may develop and train county welfare and probation departments on foster care eligibility requirements.

Allowable Title IV-E

Some of the Title IV-E Administrative training addresses items related to the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 such as: administrative cost for a child placed with a relative for the lesser of 12 months or the average length of time it takes for a state to license or approve a foster home, administrative cost when a child moves from an unallowable facility to a licensed or approved

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foster family home, and or Title IV-E administrative cost for children who meet the foster care candidacy.

Setting/Venue

The training occurs at the UCD campus and in other locations throughout the state.

Training Duration

Short-term.

Training Activity/Provider Training Activity

A two day training course and a one day workshop forum provided by The Center for Human Services, UCD Extension University of California.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Four (two-day) sessions. Session times are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Total number of training days is eight days and fifty-six hours for this contract. There are approximately 240 participants for all four sessions (sixty participants per two-day session).

Training Audience

Provide continuing information and training to deputy directors, program managers and fiscal officers of child welfare services, and directors, program administrators and fiscal officers of other county departments such as mental health and probation. The CDSS Fiscal and Program staff also participates in this training.

Total Cost Estimate

\$255,957

Cost Allocation Methodology

Training is allocated to Title IV-E at the administrative rate and SFG. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload. As such, the benefitting program is foster care, as the purpose of training is to provide program administrators and fiscal leaders information on the fundamentals of child welfare services funding, allocations, claiming, budgeting, and foster care eligibility requirements.

Description of how training meets goals and objectives

Participating counties shall have the knowledge and skills to better use their combined resources to achieve better outcomes for children and to provide ongoing funding to evidence-based programs that support these outcomes. Participants in the academies shall leave with a solid foundation as to how the child welfare and foster care funding stream works, its limitations and opportunities.

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Structured Decision Making (SDM)

The CDSS continues to contract with the CRC, a non-profit branch of NCCD to implement SDM systems that provide social workers with simple, objective, and reliable tools with which to make the best possible decisions for individual cases, and to provide managers with information for improved planning, evaluation, and resource allocation. The SDM tool includes six research-based assessments that assist child welfare workers in assessing risk, aids in targeting services to children who are at greatest risk of maltreatment, and improves outcomes for children and families such as reducing the recurrence of child maltreatment. The services provided by CRC include training county staff regarding the use of the SDM tools. Individual tools are designed for the hotline, safety assessment, risk assessment, family strengths and needs assessment, in-home risk reassessment, and reunification reassessment. CRC collaborated with the CDSS and eight California counties to develop a structured tool to assess the support needs of substitute care providers. CRC continues to provide training for trainers, web-training sessions on topics specified by the counties and the CDSS, and in person Core Team and trainer meetings.

Additional services include: monitoring and evaluating the SDM model in participating counties, providing ongoing technical assistance, and processing data and management reports. These reports assist counties in proper implementation and in the continued use of SDM tools by assessing operations through the review of safety assessment results, response priority results, risk levels, and an assessment of the utility of the instruments in California.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E foster care program: referral to services; development of the case plan; case reviews; costs related to data collection, and reporting and monitoring.

Setting/Venue

Training offered statewide.

Training Duration

Training length may vary depending on type of training, audience and location. This training is short-term and on-going and will continue throughout the period covered in this five-year plan.

Training Activity Provider

Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

To be determined.

Training Audience

Child welfare workers and child welfare supervisors statewide.

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Total Cost Estimate

\$491,369

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to the IV-E enhanced and administrative rates and SGF. For those costs that are not allocable to IV-E (such as hotline), the costs are allocated to SGF. For those costs allocated to IV-E, the non federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

This training activity supports the objectives of ensuring safety, and promoting permanency and well being. The training assists county child welfare staff in improving their assessment and decision making skills by providing risk, safety and needs assessment tools and training on the tools. There is now training for child welfare supervisors to support the use of the assessment tools throughout the life of a child welfare case.

Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT)

For the past three years, the CDSS has contracted with the Social Policy and Health Economics Research and Evaluation (SPHERE) Institute to develop a safety and risk assessment system for use in County Child Welfare agencies.

Due to budgetary constraints, the CDSS was unable to continue to fund two separate tools past SFY 2010. The SFY 2009/10 CAT contract, originally scheduled to end June 30, 2010, was amended to provide a no-cost extension ending the contract on December 31, 2010, so that counties have time to transition to SDM. As of June 30, 2010, only four counties have chosen to continue to use CAT, which will be funded by county-only dollars.

Allowable Title IV-E

Assesses field application of assessment tools and data entry protocols, collects feedback and revises curriculum, evaluates evidence-based best practices identifies through the development, implementation, and analysis of county risk assessment and risk management system and updates curriculum, updates training curricula based on CWS/CMS data analyses.

Setting/Venue

In local county child welfare offices.

Training Duration

Small group trainings; short term.

Training Activity Provider

Staff from the SPHERE Institute.

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Approximate Number of Days/Hours of the Training Activity:

Varies.

Training Audience

The audience will be child welfare social workers and supervisors in the remaining CAT counties.

Total Cost Estimate

\$230,500

Cost Allocation Methodology

These activities will be cost allocated to the appropriate benefitting programs.

The Family to Family Initiative (F2F)

The F2F Initiative is in various phases of implementation throughout the state of California. There are currently 25 counties voluntarily participating in the F2F initiative, which capture roughly 86 percent of the foster children in care. The F2F is still comprised of a partnership between the CDSS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

Allowable Title IV-E

The purpose of this program is to promote training and technical assistance to participating counties for the implementation of the F2F Initiative's five core strategies and emerging strategies in assisting counties in making improvements in their foster care program to promote effective, out-come based, community-supported, family-centered services. The Title IV-E funds are matched with donation funds. The authority for utilizing Title IV-E funds is under 45 CFR 1356.60(b).

Setting/Venue

On-site, in person training sessions or meetings; offsite by telephone, email or video conferencing; peer to peer learning on-site or via email.

Training Duration

Training and technical assistance is provided on a regular basis throughout the state of California to the 25 participating counties through the duration of the contract, May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Training Activity Provider

Training and technical assistance is provided by the Child & Family Policy Institute of California which is contracted to coordinate services. The scope of work focuses on the facilitation of the training and technical assistance services to county social workers and other identified staff in regards to implementing the F2F five core strategies and the six emerging strategies.

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Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Various.

Training Audience

The training audience is composed of county welfare workers and other county staff who are identified with the implementation or support of the Family to Family Initiative.

Total Cost Estimate

\$824,760

Cost Allocation Methodology

Training is allocated to Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of How Training Meets Goals/Objectives of CFSP

Continuation of this T/TA to county staff ensures the principles and practices related to the F2F strategies are understood and applied to provide optimal opportunity for achieving permanence and stability for foster children. T/TA is provided to increase reunification (when possible), sibling visitation, and placement in the child's own community. T/TA is provided to increase recruitment of resource families when out-of-home placement is necessary, to increase supports to resource families, and to decrease foster youth in congregate care. T/TA increases well-being for foster youth transitioning from foster care.

Specialized Training for Adoptive Parents (STAP) Program

California's STAP Program was established through the provisions of AB 2188 (Statutes of 1998) to provide special training and services to pre-adoptive/adoptive parents of children born Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive and/or substance exposed.

In the past year, this program continued with the same nine county partners. No additional counties have submitted requests for STAP funding.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the placement of the child category necessary for the administration of the foster care program in order to facilitate the adoption of children who are HIV positive or born substance exposed to alcohol and/or drugs.

Setting

Varies, usually off-site.

Training Duration

Varies, depending upon the type of training offered.

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Training Activity/Provider

Counties participating in the STAP Program administer training activities independently.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Varies.

Target Audience

Pre-adoptive/adoptive parents.

Total Cost Estimate

\$1 million in SGF is made available for the administration of this program, a portion of which is dedicated to training.

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to the Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals and objectives of the CFSP

This training activity promotes the assessment of the child and family's needs, and assists in improving adoption rates for HIV/substance exposed children.

Family Resource and Support Training and Technical Assistance ("Strategies")

Strategies, a network of three regional training centers, was developed to enhance the quality of programs and services provided by family support programs and family resource centers (FRCs) throughout California. Please refer to the CAPTA section beginning on page 87 for updates.

Allowable Title IV-E

Not Applicable.

Setting/Venue

Training is conducted in various settings statewide.

Training Duration

Duration of training varies depending on the type of training offered. This training project is short-term and is funded to operate through June 30, 2011.

Training Activity Provider

Strategies: a network of three regional training centers programs.

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Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Length of training varies depending on training topic.

Training Audience

The target audience includes staff from family resource centers/family support programs, community organizations, and public/private agencies.

Total Cost Estimate

\$5,113,544

Cost Allocation Methodology

Funding is allocated to PSSF, CAPIT and CAPTA.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

T/TA will assist in ensuring the safety of children, promoting the accurate assessment of child and family needs, supporting the participation of the child and family in case planning, and improving the quality and availability of relevant services.

Special Start Training Program (SSTP)

SSTP is a training program through webcast and in-person formats, for community professionals, parents, and foster parents focusing on the developmental and behavioral needs of medically high-risk newborns who are graduates of the newborn intensive care nursery. Please refer to page 105 of the CAPTA section within this document for updates.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the Title IV-E foster care program: referral to services, placement of the child, development of case plan, case reviews, case management and supervision, a proportionate share of related agency overhead, costs related to data collection and reporting and monitoring and conducting periodic evaluations.

Setting/Venue

Training provided statewide.

Training Duration

Duration of training varies according to training offered and audience (professionals) to be served.

Training Activity Provider

University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

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Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Total of 10 on-site sessions and 12 webcasts with corresponding web site support material.

Target Audience

Foster parents, caregivers and multidisciplinary professionals.

Total Cost Estimate

\$1,230,517 for grant term January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011

Cost Allocation Methodology

The CDSS continues to use CAPTA funds for the SSTP, which provides training to medical professionals, social workers and staff in other disciplines, and foster and/ or adoptive parents on assessment and developmental interventions for high risk newborns discharged from intensive care nurseries.

Training for Group Home Staff

Under the general supervision of the CCL Division, contracted vendors provide training on specified topics to group home staff, but vendors are not required to track and report attendees. Data on training topics and numbers of attendees are not available for the past year.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 5 requires group home staff be trained regarding the children served in the group home. Section 84064 requires the group home administrator to develop a training and orientation plan for group home staff. Section 84065 requires the plan have an overview of the client population served by the group home and training on the group home regulations. The training plan also includes training on the needs and services plan that is required for each child in care. Section 84068.2 requires the group home social work staff to develop the needs and services plan based on the needs of the child as outlined in the case plan with the child and the placement social worker.

Cost Allocation Methodology

The RCL rate system utilizes a point structure that employs a combination of hours for Child Care and Supervision with extra weightings for experience and education; hours for social work staffing with extra weightings for education; hours for mental health with extra weightings for education (this is for RCL points only, not a IV-E allowable cost); and a weighting for staff training which is a standard weighting for all staff to determine the RCL point range and therefore the rate. For purposes of staff training, providers must prove they have provided for and paid staff to attend these trainings through written class descriptions, staff participation log sheets, and identification of paid training on the employee's time sheet. Additionally, the trainer must be someone with the credentials to provide the training, such as a social worker. A provider does not have to "count" or identify staff training to increase the RCL points as it is not required; however, if a provider elects to include training in the calculation of total RCL points, they must identify sufficient hours (40 hrs per FTE) and provide proof that the training

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has been provided through the process identified above. Because providers who elect to include training points must provide 40 hrs per FTE, this is an “all or nothing” method. In other words, if a provider does not have sufficient proof of providing 40 hrs per FTE, none of the training will count towards the RCL points.

CWS/CMS Training

The CWS/CMS staff development and training allocation is \$7,147,134 million. The State divides and distributes the allocation to three training sources to provide consistent statewide training.

Approximately \$2 million is allocated for the provision of classroom training to state and county CWS/CMS users. These systems trainings and associated supports utilize a standardized statewide curriculum and web based tools. The training includes CWS/CMS referral, case management, placement and resource management including: CWS/CMS new and intermediate user, CWS/CMS beginning, intermediate and customized county and state access to data via the Business Objects programs. Business Objects is the data manipulation and reporting software provided by the State for designated users. The training delivers the CWS/CMS training through classroom instruction which is made available at various locations throughout the State. Additionally provided are various web based training guides, tools, workgroups and other venues to ensure user skills and knowledge are adequately addressed and maintained.

In addition to the provision of a standardized curriculum, there are state staff dedicated to providing management, facilitation and oversight of the statewide training and associated support efforts for the various systems use needs. Highlights of needs include developing, updating, and maintaining training tools including the curriculum, the Statewide Training Application Resource (STAR), Online Release Notes, Quick Reference Guides and Business Objects. In addition the allocation supports a county consultant. The consultant provides a county systems business process perspective and input on training and support necessary to meet the needs of county users.

The state allocates \$5,294 million of the CWS/CMS training allocation directly to the counties to provide CWS/CMS users with training. Counties use the allocated funds to provide local CWS/CMS training to new staff, staff whose functions within the program are changing, or special training to meet county or individual staff member specific needs. These funds assist counties in providing training locally and to ensure compliance with statewide training, systems case management and data recording. Additionally, the statewide training tools are available on the CWS/CMS website.

The CMS Support Branch is currently completing a Request for Proposal to develop CWS/Web to replace the CWS/CMS. During the transition and implementation phase, the State will provide training to county and state staff. Subject to project schedule changes, the training budget for CWS/Web is estimated as follows:

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Table 8: CWS/Web Training Budget Estimates

Year	Estimated Budgeted Amount for CWS/Web Training
2013	\$3.4 million
2014	\$9.1 million
2015	\$2.7 million
Total	\$15.2 million

The state will continue the current distribution of the training allocation when CWS/Web enters the maintenance and operations phase.

Allowable Title IV-E

CWS/CMS training falls under the following categories necessary for the administration of the foster care program: development of the case plan, monitor and conduct evaluations, and case reviews.

Setting/Venue

All county and state staff requiring CWS/CMS training attends classes at various sites and/or utilizes the web based tools. The training venues are strategically located throughout the State to allow easy access to as many staff as possible. Training can be delivered at an individual staff's desk as necessitated by business needs.

Training Duration

Each training session can vary according to the venue, subjects, skill set and type of training provided. The county has the ability to provide in-house training whenever it is deemed necessary.

Training Audience

The training audience includes all county and state staff using the CWS/CMS system. The number of students trained to use the system varies frequently because it is based on fluctuating state and county needs.

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to the Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Initiative

The AOC continues to support the CDSS' commitment to full implementation of ICWA by providing educational offerings; curriculum development; technical assistance; statewide resources; and tribal engagement on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence through the ICWA Initiative.

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Details regarding these other activities are further explained in the general ICWA section of this document beginning on page 82.

Allowable Title IV-E

Eligibility determination, referral to services, preparation for and participation in judicial determinations, placement of the child, development of the case plan, case reviews, and case management and supervision.

Setting/Venues

Various.

Training Activities Provider

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Eight six-hour regional training sessions will be provided.

Target Audience

County child welfare and probation staff, family and juvenile court representatives, and tribal representatives.

Total Cost Estimate

\$279,430

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E at the enhanced rate, transitional rate (for the additional audience, per PL 110-351, gradually increasing from 55 to 75 percent for FFY 2009 to 2014), and SFG. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the non-federal discount will be applied in order to account for the non-federal caseload.

Annual California Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Conference

The CDSS continues to support the annual statewide ICWA Conference hosted by a volunteer tribe or group of tribes. Please refer to page 85 of the ICWA section within this document for updates.

Allowable Title IV-E

Not Applicable.

Setting/Venue

This training alternates annually between southern and northern California, and is sponsored and organized by a host Tribe in the selected area.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

Training Duration

This training is short-term.

Training Activity Provider

Contractor is determined annually. The California Tribe selected to host and organize the training becomes the contractor.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

The training is conducted over two and one-half days. Approximately 200 individuals will receive training.

Target Audience

Indian child welfare workers; tribal advocates, council members and community leaders, law enforcement; child welfare and probation staff, judges, attorneys, foster/adoption agencies, social services agency personnel, college students, and other interested parties.

Total Cost Estimate

\$25,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

All SGF.

Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) Training for California County ICAMA Liaisons

The CDSS and various counties participated in teleconference trainings offered by the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (AAICAMA) on September 22, 2009, October 27, 2009, and February 23, 2010. The trainings covered the basics of the ICAMA Compact and Medicaid/Title IV-E and Title XIX law, state and federal funding.

Allowable Title IV-E

This training activity falls under the category of determining eligibility and case management.

Setting/Venue

Training will be available statewide.

Training Duration

Duration of training will vary according to type of training developed, topics of training offered and location. This training project is expected to be short-term.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

Training Activity Provider

The ICAMA training will be a new training contract with an organization that has experience in providing statewide training and ICAMA subject matter.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

To be determined based on the type of training offered, topics and the audience to receive training. It is envisioned that any in-person training would involve two one-day Northern and Southern trainings which could be offered at different times to enable all county liaisons to be included.

Training Audience

Statewide ICAMA county liaisons, including the CDSS District Offices and California tribes and eligibility workers. Training may also include judges, commissioners, referees, court personnel and attorneys involved with the adoption of Adoption Assistance eligible children.

Total Cost Estimate

\$150,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E the non-federal discount will be applied to account for the non-federal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of CFSP

This training will assist child welfare staff in engaging families with individualized responses to help them preserve and strengthen their capacities to provide safety and stability for their children.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Training

The CDSS provided no training during the last year on ICPC or ICAMA related topics. Given the current efforts of the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) to refine and/or modify the existing ICPC regulations, the CDSS will be reassessing both the type of training which may be needed by counties in the future to address the changes in the AAICPC regulations as well as the timing/methods of such training.

Allowable Title IV-E

The ICPC training would cover ICPC requirements and procedures, including by whom and when it must be used, types of placements covered, case planning and financial and medical support responsibility by the sending entity until closure with concurrence of both agencies, referrals to services, supervisory reports and visitation, and case reviews. Additionally, training will include information on federal ICPC home study timeline requirements and applicable data reporting requirements. Training will also provide participants with a better understanding of the complexities of the proposed new compact requirements compared with the current ICPC.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

Setting/Venue

Regional training sites and/or on-line format.

Training Duration

Short term: The training will consist of four to five, one to two-day, regional (northern and southern) training sessions or a self-paced on-line training format.

Training Activity Provider

Training provider has not yet been determined. This will be a new training contract with an organization that has knowledge of ICPC and experience in organizing statewide training sessions and/or providing on-line training.

Approximate Number of Days/Hours of Training Activity

Approximately four to five, one to two-day regional training sessions, that would consist of approximately 8 to 16 hours per session or comparable hours of on-line training.

Target Audience

The state's ICPC liaisons in each county, placement supervisors (child welfare services, probation, and tribes) that place out-of-state, and the CDSS Adoption District Office staff (75-125).

Total Cost Estimate

\$150,000

Cost Allocation Methodology

This training is allocated to Title IV-E enhanced rate and SGF. For those costs allocated to Title IV-E, the nonfederal discount will be applied to account for the nonfederal caseload.

Description of how training meets goals/objectives of the CFSP

This training promotes appropriate placement, placement stability and a better understanding about the protection of children who are placed out of state while remaining under court jurisdiction. Without this training, there is potential for statewide inconsistencies in ICPC compliance, including placements that have not been approved through the ICPC process. Noncompliance with the ICPC process could jeopardize a child's placement, as well as benefits and services.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training Evaluation for RTA's

A strategic plan was finalized in SFY 2009 to help guide child welfare training evaluation efforts for the next three years in California. The strategic plan includes development activities in the following areas, subject to availability of resources. The work over the next three years will include implementation of the activities outlined in the strategic plan, including:

- Complete a more in-depth analysis of data that indicates concerns with a particular test or curriculum, and identify ways to troubleshoot and resolve issues.
- Link evaluation data to trainers to ensure fidelity to, and identify gaps in, coverage of common core curricula.

Within the next year, and based upon availability of funding and staffing, discussion has occurred around intentions to:

- Develop formative evaluation materials for a new statewide venture: e-learning.
- Revise the embedded evaluation for Casework Supervision module.
- Pilot a neglect scenario as part of an embedded evaluation (PCWTA).
- Conduct a feasibility study of Transfer of Learning (TOL) evaluations as applied at a statewide level, based on findings and lessons learned from initial TOL evaluations.
- Conduct a feasibility study linking training to outcomes evaluation as applied at a statewide level.

All County Information Notices (ACIN)

Policy Guidance and Information Provided to Counties

[ACIN I-40-09 \(August 10, 2009\)](#)

Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus (THP-Plus) Questions and Answers

[ACIN I-67-09 \(September 29, 2009\)](#)

Family Engagement Efforts (FEE)

[ACIN I-70-09 \(November 23, 2009\)](#)

The Linkages Project and Family Engagement Guidelines for Enhancing Family Participation Through Coordinated Case Planning

[ACIN I-71-09 \(October 13, 2009\)](#)

Independent Living Program (ILP) Annual Statistical Report for ILP Eligible Probation and Aftercare Youth [SOC 405A.1 (10/08)]

[ACIN I-72-09 \(November 4, 2009\)](#)

Annual County Training Plan - Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[ACIN I-74-09 \(October 26, 2009\)](#)

Voluntary Placement Agreements and Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16507.6

[ACIN I-76-09 \(November 5, 2009\)](#)

Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund

[ACIN I-83-09 \(November 24, 2009\)](#)

Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Pilot

[ACIN I-05-10 \(April 6, 2010\)](#)

Specialized Care Rate Program

[ACIN I-07-10 \(January 25, 2010\)](#)

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Data Entry Requirements into the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) For All Foster Care Youth Eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) Services

[ACIN I-19-10 \(March 29, 2010\)](#)

New Statewide Toll-Free Number for Hotline Providing Statewide Safe Surrender Baby Site Locations

[ACIN I-21-10 \(March 16, 2010\)](#)

Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) 36th Annual Conference

[ACIN I-24-10 \(March 26, 2010\)](#)

Permanency Protocols For Improved Permanency Outcomes

[ACIN I-30-10 \(April 20, 2010\)](#)

Relative Assessment/Approval Process - Revisions to the Out-Of-state Disclosure and Criminal Record Statement (LIC 508D) Form

All County Letters (ACL)

[ACL 09-28 \(June 4, 2009\)](#)

Indian Child Welfare Act and Adoptions - Forms, Processes, and Standards

[ACL 09-31 \(August 17, 2009\)](#)

Safety and Risk Assessments

[ACL 09-35 \(July 28, 2009\)](#)

Waiver of Right to Further Notice of Adoption Planning and Waiver of Right to Revoke Consent

[ACL 09-38 \(August 11, 2009\)](#)

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Equivalency Letter for Relative/Non-relative Extended Family Member (NREFM) Out-Of-State Placements

[ACL 09-40 \(August 18, 2009\)](#)

Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP) Funding Increase Claiming Guidelines

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[ACL 09-45 \(September 30, 2009\)](#)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program and Adoption Assistance Program

[ACL 09-45E \(October 19, 2009\)](#)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program and Adoption Assistance Program

[ACL 09-51 \(September 29, 2009\)](#)

California's Adoption Assistance Program and Title IV-E Federal Mandates

[ACL 09-60E \(April 26, 2010\)](#)

Clarification to the Definition of A "Single Custodial Parent" And For Instructions for Data Related To the Family's Participation in Work Experience for the Two-Parent Rate

[ACL 09-65 \(November 5, 2009\)](#)

Sharing Ratios for Group Home Programs Fiscal Year 2009/10

[ACL 09-67 \(November 3, 2009\)](#)

Implementation of the Re-adoption Provisions for Inter-country Adoptions - Senate Bill (SB) 1393 (Chapter 809, Statutes of 2006)

[ACL 09-72 \(November 9, 2009\)](#)

California Alliance of Child and Family Services v. John Wagner, et.al. Temporary Restraining Order Prohibiting Reductions to Group Home Rates

[ACL 09-73 \(November 25, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation of Funds for the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-PLUS)

[ACL 09-76 \(November 25, 2009\)](#)

California Alliance of Child and Family Services v. John Wagner, et.al. Preliminary Injunction Prohibiting Reductions to Group Home Rates

[ACL 09-80 \(December 28, 2009\)](#)

Expanded Audience for Title IV-E Training

[ACL 09-81 \(December 31, 2009\)](#)

Child Welfare Services (CWS) Disaster Response Plan Update

[ACL 09-84 \(December 28, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/2010 Process for County Certification to System Utilization of the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and the Availability of an Associated Funding Augmentation

[ACL 09-85 \(December 28, 2009\)](#)

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES v. JOHN WAGNER, et al. SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[ACL 09-85E \(January 28, 2010\)](#)

WRAPAROUND AND THE CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES v. JOHN WAGNER, et al. SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

[ACL 09-86 \(December 29, 2009\)](#)

Notification of Relatives

[ACL 09-87 \(February 8, 2010\)](#)

New Federal Requirement: 90-Day Transition Plan for Foster Youth Prior To Aging-Out of Foster Care

[ACL 10-02 \(January 29, 2010\)](#)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) Foster Family Agency Rates and Group Home Adjusted Point Ranges

[ACL 10-06 \(March 6, 2010\)](#)

Regulations Implementing Senate Bill (SB) 39 Child Fatality Disclosure and Reporting Requirements

[ACL 10-08 \(February 26, 2010\)](#)

Adoption Assistance Program

[ACL 10-12 \(March 15, 2010\)](#)

the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act Of 2008 (PL 110-351) Case Plan Assurances and Educational Transportation Reimbursement

[ACL 10-15 \(March 15, 2010\)](#)

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES v. CLIFF ALLENBY, et al.

[ACL 10-15E \(April 12, 2010\)](#)

Wraparound Rates for Aid to Families with Dependent Children--Foster Care and the California Alliance of Child and Family Services v. Cliff Allenby, et al. Court Order

[ACL 10-17 \(March 24, 2010\)](#)

Assembly Bill 1325, Chapter 287, Statutes of 2009 Tribal Customary Adoption

[ACL 10-19 \(April 21, 2010\)](#)

Monthly Caseworker Visits With Children Forms and Documentation

[CFL 08/09-24 \(November 6, 2008/09\)](#)

California County Welfare Department (CWD) Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) Changes for the 2006/2007 Fiscal Year (FY)

[CFL 08/09-26 \(November 4, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Administration Final Allocation

[CFL 08/09-27 \(November 4, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Supportive and Therapeutic Options Program (STOP) Final Allocations

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[CFL 08/09-28 \(November 4, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Emancipated Foster Youth Stipends Final Allocation

[CFL 08/09-30 \(December 23, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Planning Allocation Project (CAP)

[CFL 08-09-31 \(November 7, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Planning Allocation for 56 Counties

[CFL 08-09-32 \(November 14, 2008/09\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Final Allocation for Senate Bill (SB) 1569 Aid and Services for Noncitizen Victims of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Other Serious Crimes

[CFL 08-09-37 \(January 30, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Planning Allocation for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Caseworker Visits Grant

[CFL 08-09-41 \(February 11, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-Gap) Administration Planning Augmentation

[CFL 08-09-42 \(February 11, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Planning Augmentation for the Administration of the Foster Care (FC) Program

[CFL 08-09-44 \(February 11, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Planning Augmentation for 56 Counties

[CFL 08-09-46 \(March 25, 2009\)](#)

Final Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Augmentation Allocation

[CFL 08-09-49 \(May 20, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Augmentation for 56 Counties

[CFL 09-10-01 \(August 31, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) Program Allocation

[CFL 09-10-02 \(August 26, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for the Administration of the Foster Care (FC) Program

[CFL 09-10-02E \(October 15, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for the Administration of the Foster Care (FC) Program

[CFL 09-10-06 \(September 3, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for Adoptions Program Basic Costs, Safe and Timely Interstate Placement, and Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act

[CFL 09-10-07 \(August 26, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Adoptions County Counsel (ACC) General Fund (GF) Allocation

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[CFL 09-10-09 \(November 16, 2009\)](#)

Augmentation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP)

[CFL 09-10-11 \(September 25, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Allocation for 56 Counties

[CFL 09-10-11E \(December 7, 2009\)](#)

Correction to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Allocation for 56 Counties

[CFL 09-10-14 \(October 7, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocations for Child Welfare Services (CWS) Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) Grant, CWS DR, Safety Assessment (SA), Permanency and Youth Services (PYS), and County Probation Departments

[CFL 09-10-15 \(October 8, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Assembly Bill (AB) 2129 Foster Parent Training and Recruitment Allocation

[CFL 09-10-16 \(October 6, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (KIN-GAP) Administration Allocation

[CFL 09-10-17 \(October 8, 2009\)](#)

State Family Preservation (SFP) Permanent Transfer Allocation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10

[CFL 09-10-20 \(October 8, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Substance Abuse (SA)/Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infant Program General Fund (GF) Allocation

[CFL 09-10-22 \(October 12, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program

[CFL 09-10-23 \(October 8, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Caseworker Visits Grant

[CFL 09-10-23E \(April 1, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Caseworker Visits Grant (CVG)

[CFL 09-10-25 \(October 7, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund General Fund (GF) Allocation

[CFL 09-10-26 \(October 21, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Independent Living Program (ILP) Allocation

[CFL 09-10-27 \(October 15, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Supportive and Therapeutic Options Program (STOP) Allocations

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

[CFL 09-10-30 \(October 29, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Group Home Monthly Visits (GHMV) General Fund (GF) Allocation

[CFL 09-10-34 \(November 19, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Emancipated Foster Youth Stipends (EYS) Allocation Suspension

[CFL 09-10-35 \(December 2, 2009\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Allocation for Services and Administration for the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP)

[CFL 09-10-39 \(January 26, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP)

[CFL 09-10-41 \(January 28, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/09 Business as Usual (BAU) Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP) - Information Only

[CFL 09-10-44 \(February 2, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Allocation for 56 Counties

[CFL 09-10-45 \(February 3, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Allocation for 56 Counties Augmentation

[CFL 09-10-48 \(March 3, 2010\)](#)

Final Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Augmentation Allocation

[CFL 09-10-49 \(March 10, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Child Welfare Services (CWS) Planning Allocation for 56 Counties Augmentation

[CFL 09-10-50 \(March 9, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Planning Augmentation for the Administration of the Foster Care (FC) Program

[CFL 09-10-52 \(March 17, 2010\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Adoptions County Counsel (ACC) General Fund (GF) Planning Augmentation

[CFL 09-10-55 \(March 24, 2010\)](#)

Planning Augmentation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/10 Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP)

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

REQUEST FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As history demonstrates, there are instances when California counties and the CDSS benefit from the training and technical assistance (T/TA) offered through ACF. The T/TA for California can be provided by the ACF staff, through the NRC, or through the Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center (WPIC).

The CDSS continues to monitor counties' progress on their SIPs related to a number of areas, such as permanency, safety, and well-being. Counties that are in the process of updating their SIPs or that undergo a peer quality case review may identify issues where T/TA would be of benefit to the children and families in these communities. In the coming year, some counties will request T/TA from the NRC through the CDSS on a variety of issues. The CDSS issued an ACIN outlining the process by which counties should request T/TA, and the CDSS continues to encourage counties to use the services offered by the NRCs and the WPIC.

During June 2010, all managers in the Children and Family Services Division received a presentation on the NRC services by the Training Support Manager within the Child Protection and Family Support Branch of the CDSS. The website address to the Children's Bureau was shared and hard copies of the newest version of the Training and Technical Assistance Network 2010 Directory and a print out from the website with additional information was shared. Discussion occurred around the desire for each manager to consider what training and technical assistance could enhance and improve the quality of services being provided in their service area to counties and to engage in conversations throughout the future as to how to take best advantage of the NRC services.

The CDSS Managers have mentioned the following interests for exploring in SFY 2010/11: Assessment of the Statewide Training System, including an evaluation of the communication structure and provision of training services and technical assistance within regions and counties. In addition, gathering knowledge about best practices from around the country pertaining to e-learning development and most effective learning management systems/platforms.

1. Support in implementing streamlined communication practices around development of the APSR—specifically being supported in learning how to best utilize currently available data to inform decision making around practice and training needs. An outcome will be learning to incorporate more effective evaluation of the CDSS programs. The T/TA will respond to how the CDSS can improve use of and understanding of data in program areas in a most cost effective and useful way, such that managers will become comfortable understanding and writing about outcomes in the APSR and in other relevant venues.
2. Support in implementing the zero to three amendment that went into place in 2006 for child abuse prevention (CAPTA) with regard to developmental screenings for children in foster care (and in home care) by looking at policies and procedures with the Department of Developmental Services and the CDSS so that related services integrate more effectively into county structures and practice.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

3. Improvement in areas of recruitment, retention, and support of foster and adoptive families in California. Specifically, assistance is needed in developing the 'Diligent Recruitment of Families in the Foster Care System' grant application which includes the development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan for addressing recruitment and retention.

A copy of the California plan for T/TA used prior to June 2010 is included below.

Training and Technical Assistance

Also included in this section is a list of entities, in addition to the CDSS, that provide T/TA to counties through contracts and other means.

T/TA is provided to California counties through contracts and is also provided directly by the CDSS. T/TA has also been provided by the following groups:

- (ACF).
- Annie E. Casey Foundation with the CDSS (providing a "convening/training" around topics such as recruitment/training and retention of foster parents, youth permanence and disproportionality).
- California Connected by 25 Initiative (CC25) supported by the Anne E. Casey Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Charles M. Schwab Foundation, the Stuart Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.
- California Permanency for Youth Project (through the Public Health Institute) is funded by the Stuart Foundation, Walter S. Johnson Foundation, S.H. Cowell Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation and Casey Family Program.
- CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project or Linkages.
- Citizen Review Panels (Calaveras, Ventura, and San Mateo counties).
- Connecticut Department of Mental Health and U.C. Berkeley (Supporting Fatherhood Involvement Study).
- Eastfield Ming Quong Family Partnership Institute (EMQ-FPI).
- Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California.
- Family Support Training Model/Family Resource and Support Training and Technical Assistance Project ("Strategies").
- ICAMA Training.
- ICPC Training.
- Judicial Council through the California's ICWA Initiative (100 percent general fund).
- Judicial Council's Collaborative Justice Advisory Committee.
- Judicial Review and Technical Assistance (JRTA), Center for Families, Children, and the Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Council.
- Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP).
- Mental Health Services Act – Wraparound Services.
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency/Children's Research Center (Structured Decision Making [SDM]).

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- National Council on Crime and Delinquency/Children's Research Center's SafeMeasures Reporting Service.
- National Resource Center for Child Protective Services.
- National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI).
- Parents Anonymous, Inc.
- Specialized Training for Adoptive Parents (STAP).
- Statewide Citizen Review Panel.
- Strategies: Family Resource Center and Family Support Program Training and Technical Assistance. Strategies is comprised of three non-profit organizations: Youth for Change/Paradise Ridge FRC in Butte County (Region 1), Interface Children Family Services in Ventura County (Region 2) and the Children's Bureau of Southern California (Region 3).
- SA/HIV infant Program (formerly Options for Recovery Perinatal Program).
- The Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC), Casey Family Programs and the Peer Technical Assistance Teams.
- The Child and Family Policy Institute of California.
- The Court Improvement Project: Self-Assessment for California Juvenile Dependency Courts.
- The Dependency Court Improvement Project (CIP) of the Administrative Office of the Courts Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC).
- The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, including the Peer Technical Assistance.
- The SPHERE Institute (Comprehensive Assessment Tool [CAT]).
- Tribal STAR.
- University of California, Berkeley- Performance Indicators/California Children's Services Archive.
- Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center.

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

**California's National Resource Center (NRC) and Western and Pacific Implementation Center (WPIC)
Training/Technical Assistance (T/TA) Plan FFY 2010**

<i>Describe the T/TA Request</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Estimated Timeframe</i>	<i>Related T/TA Need</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>NRC/Regional Office Contact</i>
Technical assistance to enhance the understanding and functioning of CRPs.	CPFSB (Linné Stout / LeeAnn Kelly)	Request approved for: 2 days onsite Blake Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other	The T/TA convened on 6/15/10 of the three county CRPs and one State CRP. The next day, there will be a debriefing of the convening with the CDSS staff.	The request was approved on 5/4/10 by Debra Samples. Next Step: Finishing the agenda for the convening.
Assessment of the Statewide Training System, including an evaluation of the communication structure and provision of training services and technical assistance within regions and counties. Exploring e-learning development and most effective learning management systems/platforms.	CPFSB (Linné Stout/ Cheryl Treadwell)	TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other		CPFS has not spoken with any NRC. However the NRC for Organizational Improvement would likely be the choice
Support in implementing streamlined communication practices around development of the APSR—specifically being supported in learning how to best utilize currently available data to inform decision making around practice and training needs.	CPFSB (Linné Stout / Joyce Dowell)	TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other	An outcome will be learning to incorporate more effective evaluation of CDSS programs. The T/TA will respond to how CDSS can improve use of and understanding of data in program areas in a most cost effective and useful way.	CPFS has not spoken with any NRC.

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Support in implementing the zero to three amendment that went into place in 2006 for child abuse prevention (CAPTA) with regard to developmental screenings for children in foster care (and in home care).	CPFSB (Linné Stout / LeeAnn Kelly)	TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Review policies and procedures with the Department of Developmental Services and CDSS so that related services integrate more effectively into county structures and practice.	CPFS has not spoken with any NRC.
Improvement in areas of recruitment, retention, and support of foster and adoptive families in California.	CFSD	TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Specifically, assistance is needed in developing the 'Diligent Recruitment of Families in the Foster Care System' grant application which includes the development and implementation of a statewide strategic plan for addressing recruitment and retention.	CPFS has not spoken with any NRC.
Technical assistance on ICWA has been requested by Los Angeles County.	CPFSB (Linné Stout/ LeeAnn Kelly)	TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> PIP <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Data Issues (SACWIS/AFCARS) <input type="checkbox"/> Other needs (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> CFSR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other	LA Co. is requesting T/TA in the referral process, implementation barriers, strategies, and enhancement and improvement in staff knowledge, skills, and abilities with regard to ICWA.	They have been working with the NRCOI/Peter Watson and the Indian Child & Family Resource Center/Kathy Deserly. Next step: A conference call to be scheduled by Kathy Deserly to go over the work plan she submitted on 5/5/10.
Technical assistance to develop and implement systemic change in Los Angeles County.	CPFSB (Linné Stout/ Cheryl Treadwell)	Approved on 5/20/09 to enter into a structured planning process.	N/A	LA Co. requested the T/TA for systemic change to integrate all the individual projects and have the involvement of all internal and external partners in order to develop a cohesive system. Completed on site visits and a Logic Model.	Working with WPIC liaison, Clare Anderson. Next step: Strategic planning process implementation 1/2010 –6/2010.

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EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Background

This Children's Services Operations and Evaluation Branch (CSOEB) Annex is to be used in conjunction with the CDSS Mass Care and Shelter (MCS) Plan in large-scale, multi-county, interregional emergencies and disasters. The basic MCS Plan and the CSOEB Annex will provide the structure, policies, procedures, and forms for the CDSS Disaster Operation Center (DOC) activation.

The CSOEB serves a population that includes dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state. Since many of these children reside in multiple jurisdictional areas which are supervised by local child welfare agencies and the CDSS, specific planning for this population is necessary. The CSOEB Annex details necessary response information for declared national disasters and national security emergencies.

In September 2006, Congress passed the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 [PL 109-288]. PL 109-288 amended Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Among other changes, PL 109-288 established requirements for states on disaster planning in child welfare under Section 6 (a) (16).

Under the new federal guidelines:

“(16) provide that, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the State shall have in place procedures providing for how the State programs assisted under this subpart, subpart two of this part, or Part E would respond to a disaster, in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary which should include how a State would;

- A. Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under state care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster;

Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those areas;

Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster;

Preserve essential program records; and

Coordinate services and share information with other states.”

Population Statistics

The Center for Social Services Research Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, a CDSS/University of California, Berkeley, collaboration, compiled statistics on the number of dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the State. They include the following:

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Total California Population:

(Ages Under 1 – 10) 35,180 of which none have probationary status.

(Ages 11 – 20) 38,003 of which 6,638 have probationary status.

The above data was extracted from CWS/CMS 2008 Q3.

Plan Maintenance

The CSOEB Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan will be maintained by the CDSS CSOEB designated employee. The overall plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary, but no less than every 5 years. The plan may also be revised after new learning occurs during actual events, table top exercises, etc. Selected elements of the plan will be updated as needed. Plan updates and revisions will include:

- Request and review annual updates from all 58 county child welfare services agencies and the seven Adoption Services Bureau's District Offices.
- Update of names, phone numbers, pager numbers, addresses, and other contact information.
- Changes in operating procedures and organizational structures.
- Policy changes.
- Legislative changes.

Planning Assumptions

- County child welfare agencies have emergency plans and procedures for identifying and locating children under state care or supervision that have been adversely affected by a disaster.
- County child welfare agencies have agreements with adjacent jurisdictions that allow for cooperative assistance consistent with the Emergency Services Act and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement.
- County child welfare agencies have responded to the needs of dependent and probationary children by activating its emergency response plan.
- County child welfare agencies have taken actions to locate and identify dependent and probationary children prior to requesting assistance through the normal Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Structure.
- County child welfare agencies will respond to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services.
- County child welfare agencies will remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster.
- County child welfare agencies will preserve essential program records.
- County child welfare agencies will coordinate services for their respective county and share information with other counties, state, and federal entities.

CSOEB Emergency Management Objectives and Goals

- Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under state care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster.

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- Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those areas.
- Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster.
- Preserve essential program records.
- Coordinate services and share information with other states.

Annex

This plan is composed of the following sections:

Basic Annex

Primary information relating to plan assumptions, plan goals, training and exercises, maintenance of the plan, elements for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation phases of emergency management for dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state.

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to establish an effective process for activating and operating an emergency and disaster preparedness plan, in cooperation with state and local government for dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state. It describes the responsibilities and actions required for the effective operation of locating and monitoring dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the CDSS.

Authorities and References

The elements for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation phases of emergency management for dependent and probationary children will be conducted as outlined in this document and in accordance with California law, the State Emergency Plan, the California Services Act, the CDSS Administrative Order and the State Mass Care and Shelter Plan.

Preparedness Elements

Emphasis on preparedness for dependent and probationary children:

- Define dependent and probationary children.
- Establish local emergency preparedness guidelines.
- Ensure local emergency preparedness guidelines are followed.
- Define the state agencies and their role in providing support to local agencies for dependent and probationary children.

Emergency Management Phases

Emergency management activities during peacetime and national security emergencies are often associated with the four emergency management phases as indicated; however, not every disaster necessarily includes all indicated phases.

This section describes the appropriate emergency management phase response for identifying and locating dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state.

- Preparedness Phase (including increased readiness).
- Response (including Pre-emergency, Emergency Response, and Sustained Emergency).
- Recovery.
- Mitigation.

Phase 1 – Preparedness

The preparedness phase involves activities taken in advance of an emergency. These activities develop operational capabilities and effective response to a disaster. These actions include mitigation, emergency/disaster planning, training, exercises, and public education. Those entities identified in this plan as having either a primary or support mission relative to response and recovery should prepare operating procedures and checklists detailing personal assignments, policies, notification rosters, and resource lists.

During this phase, the CSOEB of the CDSS will:

- Request and review Child Welfare Disaster Response Plans from all 58 county child welfare services agencies and the seven ASB's District Offices; updating as necessary, the name, telephone numbers, pager numbers, addresses, and other contact information.
- The CDSS will place all Child Welfare Disaster Response Plans from all 58 county child welfare services agencies on The CDSS website: www.childsworld.ca.gov.
- Encourage local county agencies responsible for the care or supervision of dependent and probationary children to continue development of plans and exercise readiness procedures for identifying and locating dependent children under their supervision.
- Develop resource lists and contacts with supporting agencies and organizations in other jurisdictions.
- Develop, implement, and participate in readiness training programs and exercises with affected agencies and organizations.

Increased Readiness

The warning or observation that an emergency is likely or has the potential to require activation of the CSOEB Annex will initiate increased readiness actions. Appropriate actions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Review and update procedures for the activation, operation, and deactivation of the CSOEB Annex.

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- Review the current status of all resource lists.
- Request information from local Child Welfare Agencies regarding the number of people trained in emergency management functions necessary for the care or supervision of dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state.
- Request information from local Child Welfare Agencies regarding the number of trained people available for deployment to assist in identifying and locating dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state.
- Develop preliminary staffing plans for deploying trained personnel to assist in the identifying and locating of dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state.
- Initiate contact, coordinate services, and share information with supporting agencies, organizations, and other states involved with assisting in identifying and locating dependent and probationary children (County Child Welfare Agencies, CWDA, and Adoptions Services Bureau's District Offices).
- Contact IBM, the controller and preservationist of the essential program records for a mock report of dependent and probationary children.

Phase 2 – Response

Pre-Emergency

When a large-scale disaster is inevitable, actions are precautionary and emphasize protection of life. Typical response actions may include:

- Alert and notify CSOEB staff for possible deployment.
- Notify other personnel regarding possible deployment.
- Retrieve essential program records from IBM.
- Send essential program records/report which contains the identifying information of dependent and probationary children to the county disaster representative of affected county. In the event the receiving county is not able to receive the report, it will be sent to the disaster representative of the adjoining county.
- Remain in communication with caseworkers, and other essential child welfare personnel potentially affected by the disaster.

Coordinate services and share information with local government agencies, District Offices, and other states.

Emergency Response

During this phase, emphasis is placed on saving lives and property, control of the situation, and minimizing effects of the disaster. Immediate response is accomplished within the affected area by local government agencies and segments of the public and private non-governmental sector. The CDSS will coordinate with supporting agencies the activation of personnel for availability to respond to the needs of dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state. Response may include:

- Alert and notify CSOEB staff for deployment.
- Notify other personnel regarding deployment.

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- Coordinate services and share information with local government and other states.
- Maintain a log of trained personnel assignments, personal information (i.e. name, organization, personal emergency information, site location, shift hours, future schedules, staffing changes that may have occurred, etc).
- Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under state care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster.
- Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those areas.
- Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster (i.e. telephone, cellular, e-mail, etc).

Phase 3 – Recovery

During the recovery phase, procedures for the CSOEB will include:

- Continue to communicate with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who have been displaced because of the disaster and provide services in those areas.
- Continue to respond to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by the disaster, and provide services in those areas.
- Review and update the county Child Welfare Disaster Response Plans.
- Compilation and summarization of information from supporting agencies.

Phase 4 – Mitigation

Mitigation efforts occur both before and following disaster events. Post-disaster mitigation is part of the recovery process. Eliminating or reducing the impact of hazards which exist with the State and are a threat to life and property are part of the mitigation efforts. Mitigating these hazards, both before and after a disaster is particularly important when evaluating the impact on dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the State. Mitigation tools include:

- Maintain cooperative community relations between state, local, public, and private organizations.
- Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under state care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster.
- Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those areas.
- Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster.

Response Organization/Structure in a Catastrophic Event

Level	Source	Agency/Title
Local	County Coordinator	Local Government, public and private organizations
Operational Area	County Coordinator	County Government
Regional Operations	CDSS District Offices	CDSS
State Operations	CDSS Agency Liaison	CDSS

Operational Area Level

As the onset of a disaster is at the local level, it is imperative that the locating and identifying plan at the local level include procedures and protocols for meeting the needs of dependent and probationary children before, during, and after a disaster. This is assumed to be an Operational Area responsibility.

Regional Level

Because of its size and geography, the State has been divided into six mutual aid regions. The purpose of a mutual aid region is to provide for the more effective application and coordination of mutual aid and other emergency related activities.

Three Regional Emergency Operation Centers (REOC) have been established; one is Southern California (Los Alamitos), one in Coastal California (Oakland), and the third in Northern California (Sacramento). Once the REOC is activated, the California Emergency Management Agency (CALEMA) may request that the CDSS activate coordination efforts to identify and locate dependent and probationary children.

State Agency Level

California State Departments will coordinate with other state agencies, county, and non-governmental agencies to provide assistance in identifying and locating dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the state for CSOEB. The DOC manager will designate an Agency representative to be assigned to the State Operations Center (SOC).

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

The CDSS serves as the coordinator and communication link between state and Federal disaster care and shelter response system for CSOEB. During an emergency the CDSS will:

- Activate the CDSS DOC for response operations.
- The DOC manager will be responsible for appointing staff necessary to activate this CSOEB Annex.

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- The DOC manager will appoint a CDSS Liaison to respond to requests for CSOEB resources from the Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)

The Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency DHS/FEMA serves as the main Federal government contact during emergencies, major disasters and national-security emergencies. When the State has exhausted all resources in a catastrophic event, CALEMA will request assistance from DHA/FEMA.

Federal Level

Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA)

The DHS/FEMA serves as the main Federal government contact during emergencies, major disasters and national-security emergencies. When the State has exhausted all resources needed for care and shelter in a catastrophic event, CALEMA will request assistance from Department of homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHA/FEMA).

American Red Cross (ARC)

The ARC provides emergency mass care in coordination with government, public and private agencies. It receives its authority from a congressional charter. In a catastrophic event, the ARC may coordinate disaster relief activities with:

- Private organizations, such as The Salvation Army (TSA).
- National and local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
- Members of the Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs).

References:

- ACL Number 09-81
- ACL Number 08-52
- ACL Number 07-30
- CWS Disaster Response Plan Template AD 525

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2009/09-81.pdf>

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl08/08-52.pdf>

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl07/pdf/07-30.pdf>

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/Forms/English/TEMPAD525.doc>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

California's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program is currently funded using \$26,171,748.58 of Non-Federal Funds for 2008, while the MOE baseline in 1992 was \$13,200,000. Below are the funding calculations for this program:

\$ 34,249,545	TOTAL GRANT
\$ 26,174,748.58	TOTAL NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (2008)
\$ <u>-13,200,000.00</u>	(MOE BASELINE PER 1992)
\$ 12,974,748.58	NON-FEDERAL MATCH AFTER MOE
\$ (11,416,515)	25% MATCH
\$ 1,558,233.58	UNUSED NON-FEDERAL MATCH

Payment Limitations – Title IV-B, subpart 1:

California did not expend any part of federal or non-federal Title IV-B subpart 1 funds for foster care maintenance, adoption assistance, nor childcare related to foster day care, and on administrative functions in FFY 2005. This will also be true for FFY 2011.

Payment Limitations – Title IV-B, subpart 2:

The CFS 101 is outlined in the following section. The proportions for subpart 2 were previously described on page 23 of this report.

ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST AND SUMMARY (CFS-101)

The CFS 101, Parts 1 and 2 are attached.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Glossary

Appendix B: Acronym Index

Appendix C: List of Figures and Tables

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APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

The following descriptions are for illustration purposes only and not necessarily official or vetted terminology.

Active Efforts

Prior to the Court making a dispositional finding removing a child from a parent (or terminating parental rights), The CDSS has the burden to demonstrate that “active efforts have been made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family and that these efforts have been unsuccessful.” (25 U.S.C. §1912(d).) Actions to provide “active effort” shall include attempts to utilize resources of extended family members, the tribe, Indian social service agencies, traditional Indian services, and individual Indian care givers. (Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 1439(i)(4)(B).)

California’s Safety, Risk and Needs Assessment System

The California Statewide Safety, Risk and Needs Assessment System includes standardized assessment tools to ensure that these elements are assessed for each child for whom child welfare services are to be provided, including gathering and evaluating information relevant to the case situation and appraising case service needs. Each of the 58 California counties have implemented the use of a standardized assessment tool; either SDM or CAT to collect written documentation as well as to assist social workers and their supervisors in determining the appropriate level of response, assessing safety and risk factors in the home, and gauging the family’s strengths and needs. The tools are designed to assist in the decision making process when used throughout the life of a child welfare case.

Consolidated Home Study

Our current system licenses foster parents, and if a foster parent decides that they wish to adopt a foster child they have in their home, a separate process called an adoptive home study is completed. The consolidated home study is a one-time study that would certify families for foster care and/or adoption, and would facilitate concurrent planning.

Differential Response (DR)

Differential Response is a strategy that creates a new intake and service delivery structure that allows a CWS agency to respond in a more flexible manner to reports of child abuse or neglect. The CWS response is a customized approach based on an assessment of safety, risk, and protective capacity as well as the ascertainment of facts to determine the strengths and needs of the child and his or her family. This approach includes innovative partnerships with community based organizations and other county agencies which can help support families in need before further crises develop. This focus is not intended to supplant the charge of CWS to investigate and assess allegations when necessary.

Fairness and Equity in the Child Welfare Services System

Policies, procedures, and practices, as well as the availability of community resources and supports to ensure that all children and families, including those of diverse backgrounds and those with special needs, will obtain similar benefits from child welfare interventions and equally positive outcomes regardless of the community that they live in.

The Family to Family (F2F) Initiative

The California F2F Initiative has been comprised of a partnership between the CDSS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. F2F was designed in 1992 and has now been field tested in sixty communities nationwide. F2F is in a total of seventeen states, including Arizona, Alaska, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Colorado, North Carolina, Georgia, New York (New York City), Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and California.

F2F is comprised of five core strategies: 1) Recruitment, development, and support of resource families, 2) Building community partnerships, 3) Team Decision-making, 4) Self-evaluation, and 5) the CC25. There are also several emerging strategies that address additional areas needing improvement that are closely linked to the five core strategies. They are: 1) Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality, 2) Immigration and child welfare, 3) Improving Youth Engagement, 4) Improving Parent Engagement, 5) Domestic violence and child welfare, and 6) children with incarcerated parents.

Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Division 31

The regulations that govern the operation of county child welfare services.

Peer Quality Case Reviews (PQCR)

The PQCR is an extension of the county's self assessment process and is guided by questions raised by the analysis of outcome data and systemic factors. The goal of the PQCR is to analyze specific practice areas and to identify key patterns of agency strengths and concerns for the host county. The PQCR process uses peers from other counties to promote the exchange of best practice ideas within the host county and to peer reviewers. The peer reviewers provide objectivity to the process and serve as an immediate onsite training resource to the host county.

Pilot Counties

The 11 pilot counties are counties that volunteered to implement the child welfare system improvements (Standardized Safety Assessment System, Differential Response and Permanency and Youth Transitions). These counties are Contra Costa, Glenn, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Placer, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Stanislaus, Tehama and Trinity.

Quarterly Reports

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Each quarter, the state provides county child welfare agencies with county-specific data on outcome measures related to safety, permanency and well-being. These quarterly reports provide counties with quantitative data and serve as a management tool to track performance over time. The quarters are defined as:

1st Quarter: January – March

2nd Quarter: April - June

3rd Quarter: July - September

4th Quarter: October - December

Team Decision-Making (TDM)

A meeting of key stakeholders in the child's case specifically used to determine placement decisions. The meetings are always conducted by a trained facilitator.

APPENDIX B: ACRONYM INDEX

AAICAMA	Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
AAICPC	Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
AB	Assembly Bill
AC	Advisory Committee (Evidenced-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare Services in California)
ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ACIN	All County Information Notice
ACL	All County Letter
ACYF	Administration on Children, Youth and Families
AFCARS	Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AFDC-FC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care
AOC	Administrative Office of the Courts/Judicial Council
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
APSR	Annual Progress and Services Report
ARC	American Red Cross
BSC	Breakthrough Series Collaborative
BSW	Bachelor of Social Work
CACI	Child Abuse Central Index
CAFAS	Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale
CALEMA	California Emergency Management Agency
CalSWEC	California Social Work Education Center
CalWORKs	California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids
CAP	Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project
CAPC	Child Abuse Prevention Councils
CAPIT	Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CAT	Comprehensive Assessment Tool
CBCAP	Community Based Child Abuse Prevention
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CC25	California Connected by 25 Initiative
C-CFSR	California Child and Family Services Review
CCMS	California Court Case Management System
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CDE	California Department of Education
CDSS	California Department of Social Services

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CEBC	California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare
CFCC	Center for Families, Children and the Courts
CFCIP	Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
CFPIC	Child and Family Policy Institute of California
CFRA	California Family Resource Association
CFSD	Child and Family Services Division
CFSP	Child and Family Services Plan
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
CFT	Child and Family Team (California Wraparound Program)
CHDP	Child Health and Disability Prevention
CIP	Court Improvement Program
CJER	Center for Judicial Education and Research
CKC	California Kids Connection
CPEC	California Parent Engagement Center
CPFSB	Child Protection and Family Support Branch
COCCC	Chancellor's Office of California Community Colleges
CPOC	Chief Probation Officers of California
CPYP	California Permanency for Youth Project
CRC	Children's Research Center
CRP	Citizen Review Panels
CSA	County Self-Assessment
CSAC	California Student Aid Commission
CSAT	Coordinated Services Action Teams
CSOEB	Children Services Operations and Evaluation Branch
CSPT	California State Parent Team
CWC	Child Welfare Council
CWDA	Child Welfare Directors Association
CWDAB	Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau
CWIP	Child Welfare Improvement Project
CWS	Child Welfare Services
CWS/CMS	Child Welfare Services/Case Management System
DADP	Dept of Alcohol and Drug Programs
DCFS	Department of Children and Family Services
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
DHS/FEMA	The Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency
DMH	Department of Mental Health
DO	CDSS Adoptions District Office (located in Sacramento, California)
DOC	Disaster Operation Center

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DOJ	Department of Justice
DR	Differential Response
DRA	Deficit Reduction Act
DV	Domestic Violence
EBSCO	Online Educational Database
EDD	Employment Development Department
EMQ	Eastfield Ming Quong
EMSA	Emergency Medical Services Authority
ER	Emergency Response
ETV	Education and Training Vouchers
EYS	Emancipated Youth Stipend
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
FBO	Faith Based Organizations
FCCC	Foundation for California Community Colleges
FDM	Family Development Matrix
FES	Family Economic Success and Stability
FFA	Foster Family Agency
FFE	Family Finding and Engagement
F2F	Family to Family
FFP	Foster Family Placement
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FIRST	Family Infant Relationship Support Training
FM	Family Maintenance
FR	Family Reunification
FRC	Family Resource Centers
FSP	Family Support Program
FYS	Foster Youth Services
HCPFCF	Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IBM	International Business Machines
ICAMA	Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
ILP	Independent Living Program
IUC	Inter University Council
JJCPA	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act
JRTA	Judicial Review and Technical Assistance
KinGAP	Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program
KSSP	Kinship Support Services Program

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MCS	Mass Care and Shelter Plan
MPP	Manual of Policies and Procedures
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
MSW	Master of Social Work
NCANDS	National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
NCCAN	National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect
NCCD	National Council on Crime and Delinquency
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NIDCAP	Newborn Individualized Development Care and Assessment Project
NRC	National Resource Center
NRCOI	National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement
NREFM	Non-Relative Extended Family Member
NYTD	National Youth in Transition Database
OA	Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (in CFSD)
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OCAP	Office of Child Abuse Prevention Bureau (in CFSD)
OYA	Older Youth Adoptions Pilot Program
PDSA	Plan – Do – Study – Act
PIP	Program Improvement Plan
PL	Public Law
PP	Permanent Placement
PQCR	Peer Quality Case Reviews
PSSF	Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act
QEW	Qualified Expert Witness
R & R	Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Program
RBS	Residentially Based Services
RCAPC	Regional Child Abuse Coalition
RCL	Rate Classification Level
RCFFP	Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice
REOC	Regional Emergency Operation Centers
RFA	Request for Application
RFP	Request for Proposal
RTAs	Regional Training Academies
SA/HIV	Substance Abuse /Human Immunodeficiency Virus
SACWIS	Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
SAP	Student Assistance Program
SB	Senate Bill
SCP	Substitute Care Provider
SDM	Structured Decision Making

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APPENDIX B: ACRONYM INDEX

SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SFI	Supporting Father Involvement
SFY	State Fiscal Year
SGF	State General Fund
SIP	System Improvement Plan
SIT	State Interagency Team
SKCP	Safe Kids California Project
SLOC	Statewide Linkages Oversight Committee
SPHERE	Social Policy Health Economics Research and Evaluation Institute
SSB	Safely Surrendered Babies
SSTP	Special Start Training Program
STAP	Specialized Training for Adoptive Parents
STAR	Successful Transitions to Adult Readiness
STEC	Statewide Training and Education Committee
T/TA	Training and Technical Assistance
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TAY	Transitional Age Youth
TCA	Tribal Customary Adoptions
TDM	Team Decision Making
THPP	Transitional Housing Placement Program (ages 16-18)
THP-Plus	Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program (ages 18-24)
TILP	Transitional Independent Living Program
TOL	Transfer of Learning
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
TSA	The Salvation Army
UCD	University of California, Davis
VOAD	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
WIA	Workforce Investment Act
WPIC	Western Pacific Welfare Implementation Center
YLC	Youth Law Center

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ATTACHMENTS

- A: PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- B: 2008 CHILD FATALITY REPORT
- C: TENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

June 30, 2010

ACF Requested Revisions (October 4, 2010)

California Child Fatality and Near Fatality Annual Report CY 2008

Prepared by:
The California Department of Social Services
May 2010

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I. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to meet the reporting mandates of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Senate Bill (SB) 39 (Chapter 468, Statutes of 2007). The CAPTA requires a state to have provisions which allow for the public disclosure of the findings or information about a case of child abuse or neglect which has resulted in a child fatality or near fatality. SB 39 requires a county welfare department or agency to notify the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) of every child fatality that occurred within its jurisdiction that was the result of child abuse and/or neglect. The determination that abuse and/or neglect led to the child's death can be made by the Coroner/Medical Examiner, Law Enforcement, and/or the child welfare services (CWS)/Probation agency. SB 39 also requires the CDSS to annually issue a report identifying the child fatalities and any systemic issues or patterns revealed by the notices submitted by the counties and any other relevant information in the Department's possession.

In implementing the disclosure and reporting mandates of SB 39 and CAPTA, the CDSS developed and adopted a County Statement of Findings and Information form, the SOC 826. This form is the mechanism that a county CWS agency uses for notifying the CDSS of a fatality or near fatality that was determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. For purposes of reporting near fatalities, a near fatality is defined as a severe childhood injury or conditions caused by abuse or neglect which results in the child receiving critical care for at least 24 hours following the child's admission to a critical care unit(s).

During Calendar Year (CY) 2009, the CDSS adopted both Emergency and Final regulations that incorporated the SOC 826 County Statement of Findings and Information form and provided instruction to counties as to their reporting and disclosure mandates under SB 39 and CAPTA. Together these new mandates have greatly improved child fatality and near fatality reporting by CWS agencies.

The report which follows provides an analysis of the data compiled from those SOC 826 County Statement of Findings and Information forms submitted by CWS agencies for child fatalities and near fatalities which occurred in CY 2008 and were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. The CDSS has gathered additional information for each of the reported incidents from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and Safe Measures (Safe Measures is a computer application that summarizes CWS case information) in an effort to gain a broader understanding of the reported incidents and the children and families involved.

In addition to meeting the mandates of CAPTA and SB 39, this report will be provided as part of the Title IV-B, Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), and will be available on an annual basis on the CDSS Website.

Note: CDSS reports child fatality data annually to the Children's Bureau, Administration of Children and Families via the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The child fatality totals, provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), are estimates based on the reconciliation of the following data sources: CDPH Vital Statistics Deaths; Department of Justice (DOJ) Homicide File; DOJ Child Abuse Central Index; and CDPH Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Surveillance data from local child death review teams. Therefore, NCANDS child fatality totals will differ from the figures contained in this report.

II. Analysis of Data

Background

The analysis which follows for child fatalities and near fatalities that occurred in CY 2008 focuses on a number of data elements designed to provide a greater understanding of what age, ethnicity, and gender groups were most vulnerable to child fatalities and near fatalities resulting from abuse and/or neglect; the number of fatalities and near fatalities that were caused by abuse versus neglect, the cause of such child fatalities and near fatalities, what factors contributed to the findings or cause of the child fatalities and near fatalities which were reported; and whether there was prior involvement of these children and their families with the CWS system. The data included is for all child fatalities reported to the CDSS via the County Statement of Findings and Information SOC 826 form. In addition, the data is further broken out into subsets of children age four and younger. Attached to this report is a copy of the County Statement of Findings and Information SOC 826 form in addition to the total population of children in the State of California for 2007.

In reviewing this data it is important to note that the data compiled for this report only represents those child fatalities and near fatalities for which all of the following occurred:

1) the CWS agency became aware of the fatality or near fatality, 2) the fatality or near fatality was determined to be the result of abuse or neglect, and 3) the fatality or near fatality was reported to the CDSS via the SOC 826 Statement of Findings and Information form. As a result, the data only represents a subset of a larger population of children who died in California during CY 2008.

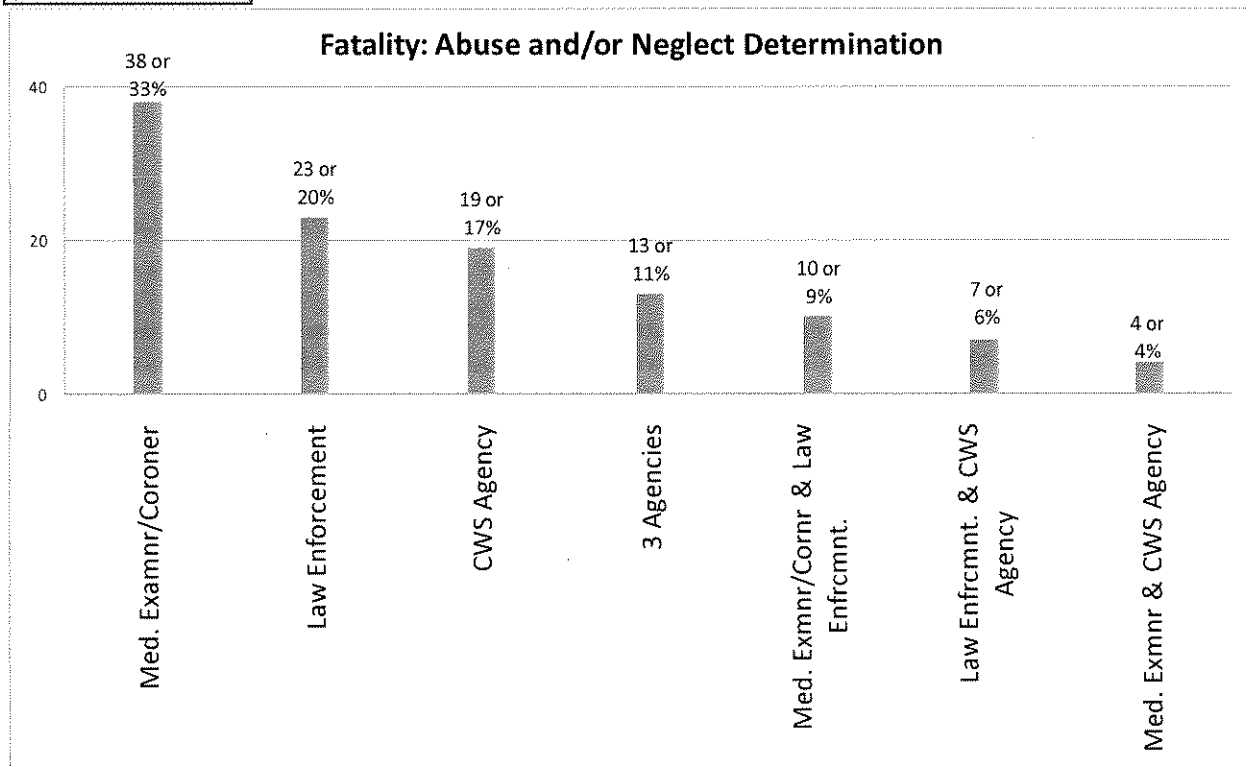
In analyzing the data, the CDSS used a rounding up methodology and as such the total percentages cited may not equal 100 percent. Additionally, to avoid any misrepresentation of the actual number of near fatality and fatality incidents that were the result of abuse and/or neglect, if an incident was reported by a county as both a near fatality and a fatality, the CDSS accounted for that incident in the aggregate fatality data information. This type of incident was not reflected in the numbers for near fatalities. Similarly, if a single fatality incident was reported more than once, the incident was only accounted for once in the fatality data information.

General Information

For CY 2008, California CWS agencies reported 114 child fatalities determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect, of which 109 children were reported to have resided in the home of the parent/guardian and five were reported to have resided in out-of-home placements or foster care.

Of those incidents reported, Chart A depicts what agency made the determination that the child's death was the result of abuse and/or neglect. In 38 of the 114 child fatality cases (33 percent) the determinations were made by the medical examiner/coroner; in 23 cases (20 percent) the determinations were made by law enforcement; in 19 cases (17 percent) the determinations were made by the CWS agency; in 13 cases (11 percent) the determinations were made by all three agencies; in 10 cases (nine percent) the determinations were made by the medical examiner/coroner and law enforcement; in seven cases (six percent) the determinations were made by law enforcement and the CWS agency; and in four cases (four percent) the determinations were made by the medical examiner and CWS agency.

CHART A

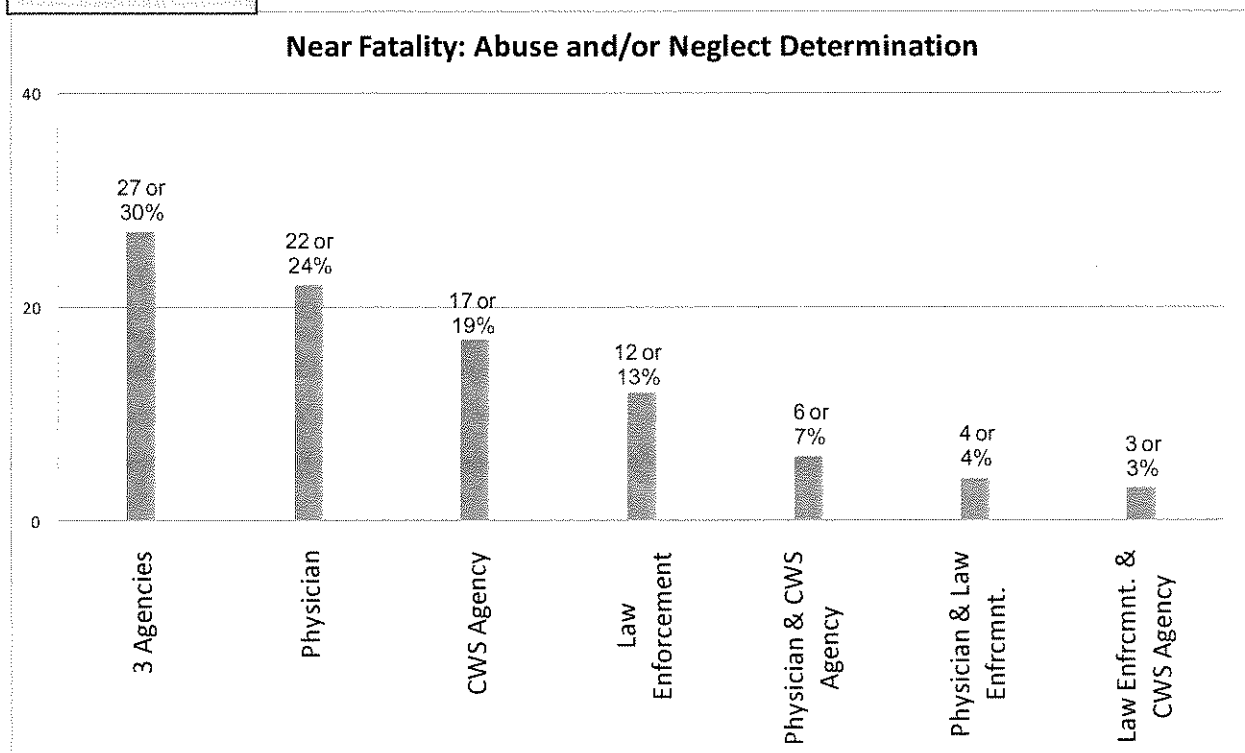


General Information (continued)

With respect to near fatalities, California CWS agencies reported 91 child near fatalities determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. Of the 91 near fatalities, 88 children resided in the home of the parent/guardian, and three resided in out-of-home placements or foster care.

Of those incidents reported, Chart B depicts which agency made the determination that the child's near fatality was the result of abuse and/or neglect. In 27 cases (30 percent) the determinations were made by all three agencies; in 22 of the near fatality cases (24 percent) the determinations were made by a physician; in 17 cases (19 percent) the determinations were made by the CWS agency; in 12 cases (13 percent) the determinations were made by law enforcement; in six cases (seven percent) the determinations were made by a physician and the CWS agency; in four cases (four percent) the determinations were made by a physician and law enforcement; and in three cases (three percent) the determinations were made by law enforcement and the CWS agency.

CHART B

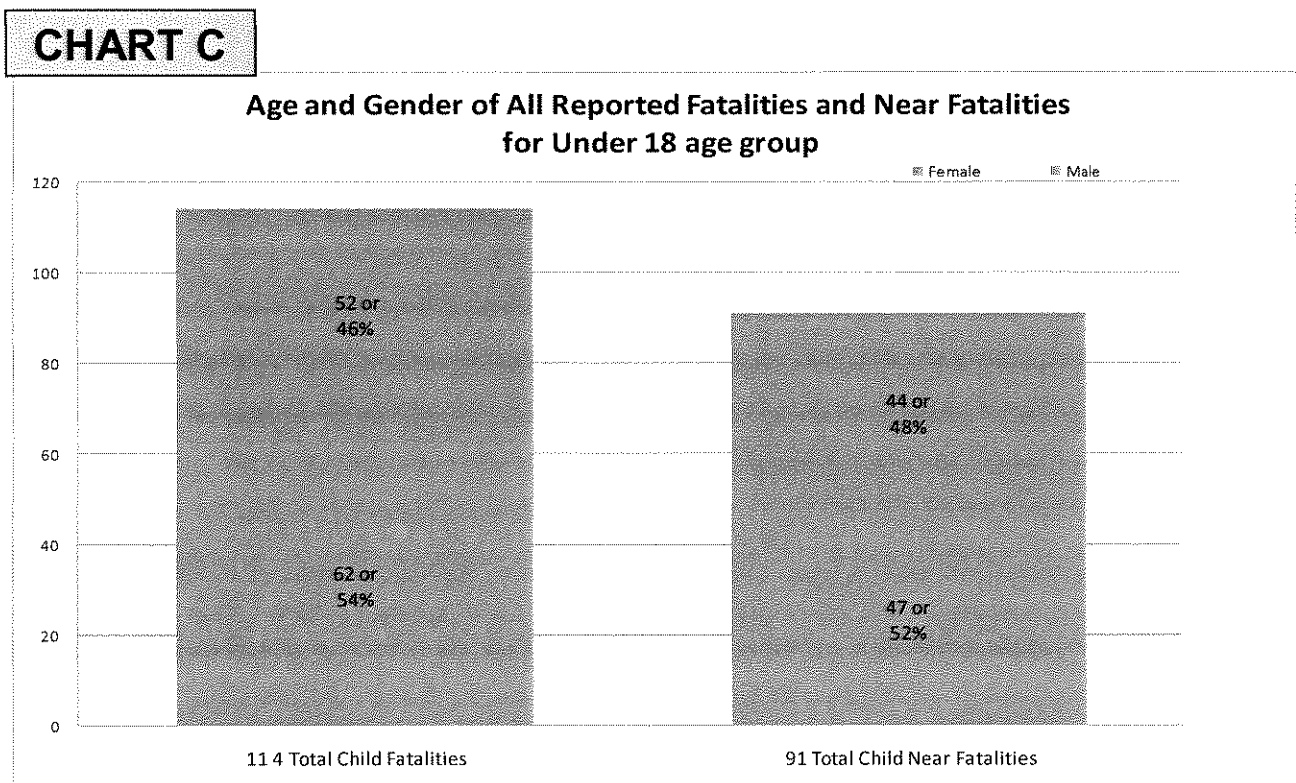


What Groups of Children are Victims of Abuse and/or Neglect Related Fatalities and Near Fatalities

A comprehensive analysis of the data for age, gender and race for child fatalities and near fatalities determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect that occurred during CY 2008 must be viewed in conjunction with the general child population during that same time period. Attachment A, found at the end of this report, depicts the age, gender and ethnicity/race of California's child population during 2007.

As can be seen from Attachment A, the largest percentage of the child population was between the ages of five and nine, at 29 percent. However, the other age groups of children came close with 10-14 at 28 percent and under five at 27 percent. With respect to race/ethnicity, the Hispanic population represents 44 percent of the total child population. In the under five age group, Hispanic children represent 48 percent of the child population, while white children represent 32 percent and black children represent six percent. With respect to gender, in the overall population of all children under age 18, 51 percent are male and 49 percent are female. Of the 4,744,538 male children in California, 1,272,884 (27 percent) were under the age of five. Similarly, of the 4,505,291 female children in California, 1,214,097 (or 27%) were under the age of five.

Chart C (below) depicts the gender of all of the children under age 18 that were victims of abuse and/or neglect related fatalities or near fatalities in CY 2008. The number of male child fatalities was higher than female child fatalities; however for near fatalities there was not a notable statistical difference between genders. In other words, one gender was not subject to more near fatalities as a result of abuse or neglect.

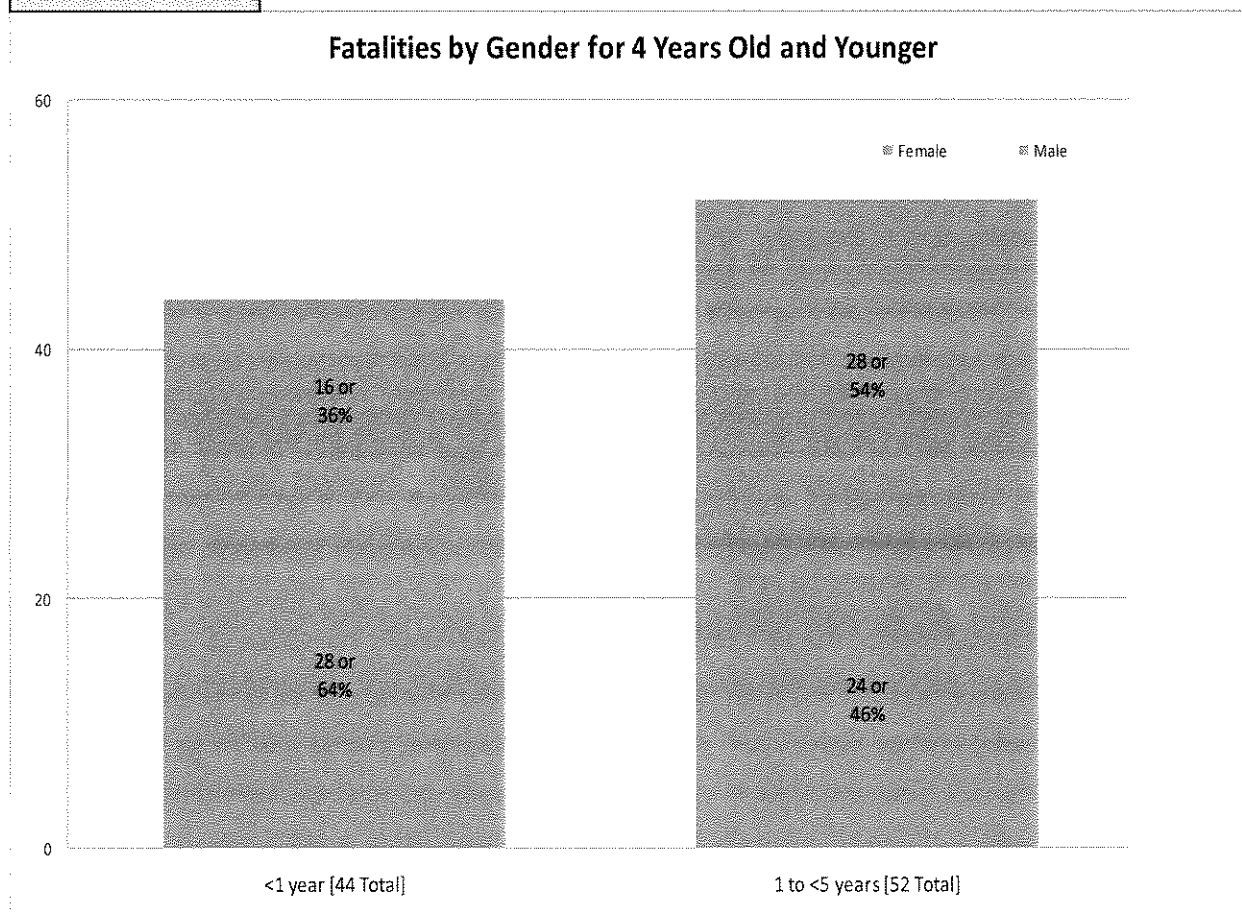


Child Fatalities: Age and Gender

California CWS agencies reported 114 child fatality cases that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect during CY 2008. The data gathered for these cases indicates the most vulnerable population were children age four and younger. In fact, 96 of the 114 child fatality cases (84 percent) were children four years of age and younger. Of those, 44 children were less than one year old and 52 children were between the ages of one and four.

Overall, the number of male child fatalities was higher than the number of female child fatalities, 62 compared to 52 (for all age groups). The largest difference was found in the less than one-year-old age group, in which there were 28 males versus 16 females. The discrepancy in numbers of males versus females in the one-four-year-old age group was much less, at 24 males to 28 females. Chart D depicts child fatalities by gender for the four years old and younger age group.

CHART D



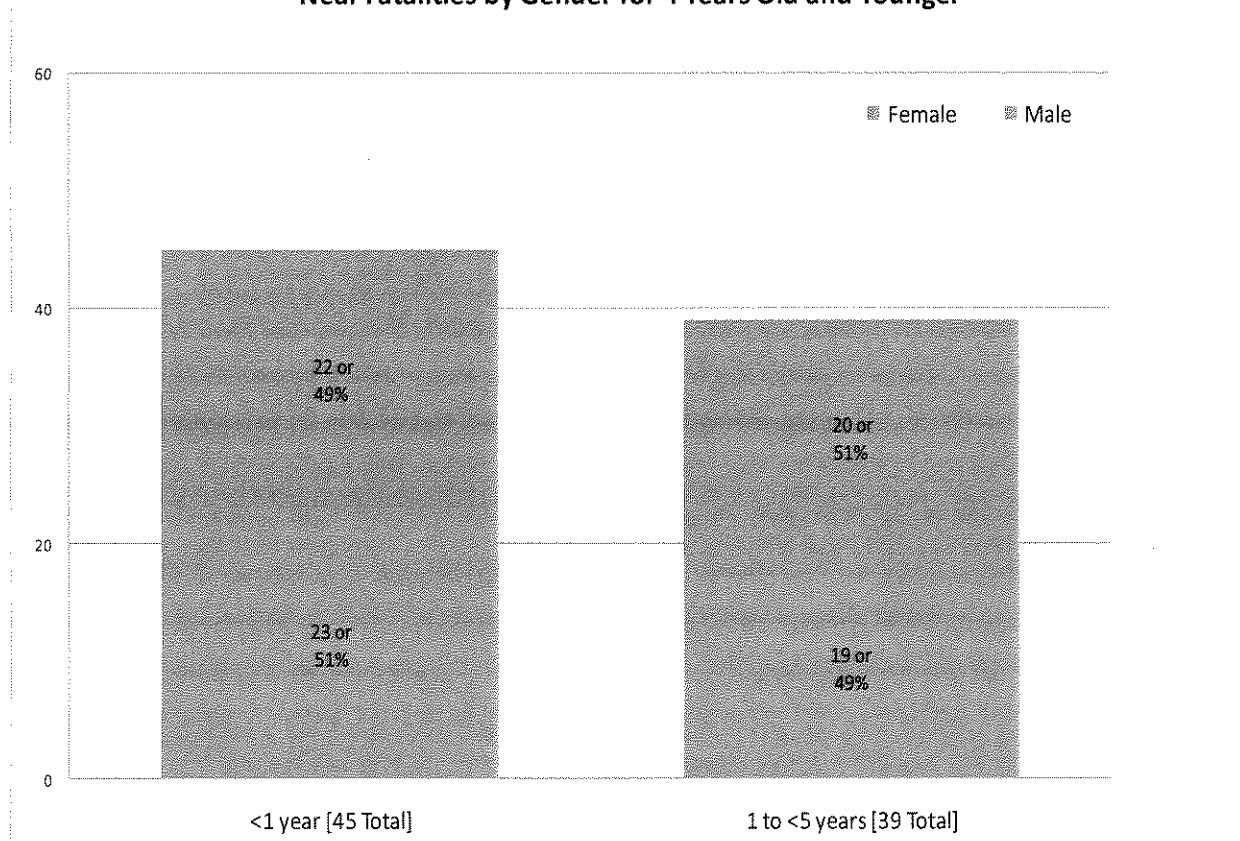
Child Near Fatalities: Age and Gender

California CWS agencies reported 91 child near fatality cases that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect. The data gathered with respect to age for child near fatality cases reflected the data for child fatality cases. Greater incidences of child near fatalities occurred in the youngest populations. Eighty-four of the 91 child near fatality cases (92 percent) were children four years of age and younger. Forty-five children were less than one-year old and 39 children were between the ages of one and four.

The data with respect to gender was slightly different than that found for child fatalities. Overall, the number of male child near fatality cases reported was only slightly higher than the number of female near fatality cases, 47 compared to 44, for all aged children in the near fatality group (see Chart C). The breakdown for gender in the less than one-year old age group was 23 males and 22 females. By comparison, the numbers of near fatalities in the one to four year old age group were 19 males and 20 females. Chart E depicts the numbers of near fatality cases by gender for children age four years old and younger.

CHART E

Near Fatalities by Gender for 4 Years Old and Younger

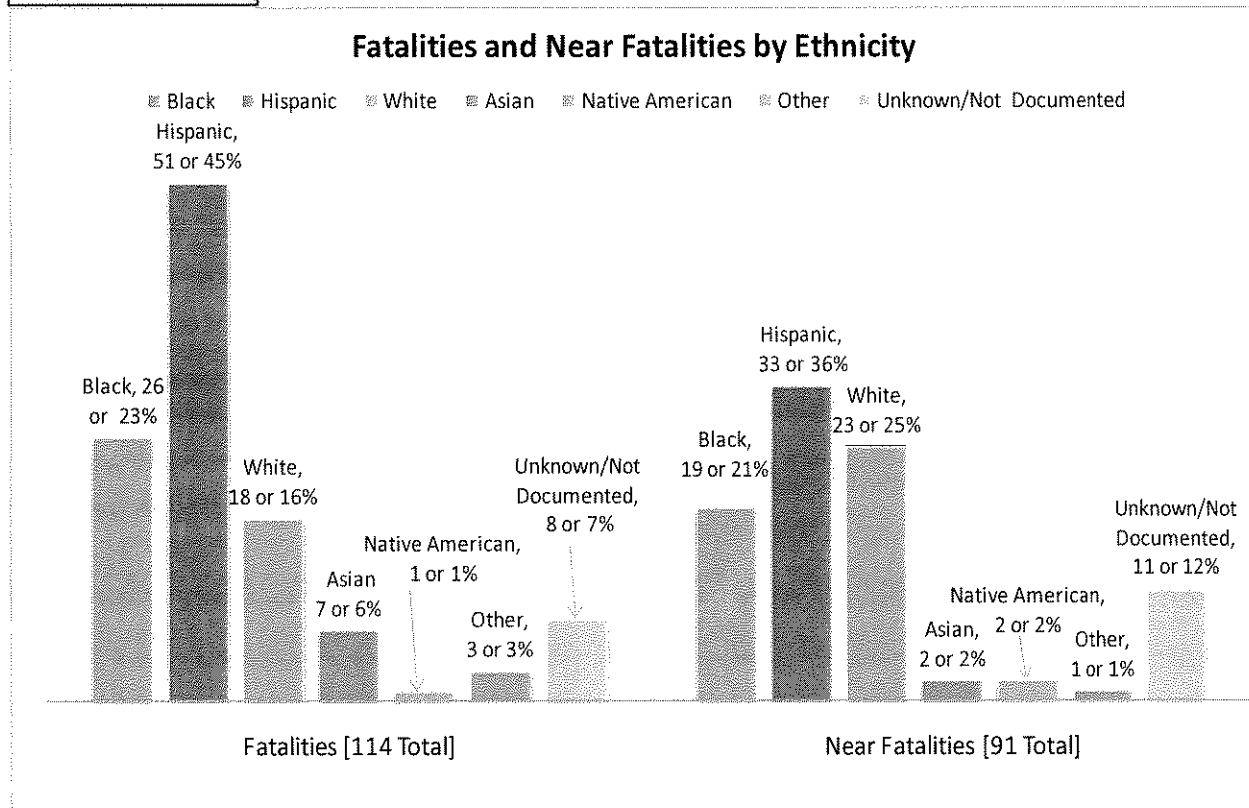


Child Fatalities: Ethnicity/Race

With respect to ethnicity/race for the total 114 child fatalities that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect, the data shows that Hispanic children had more fatalities than any other single ethnicity/race. However, it should also be noted that overall the Hispanic population of children was higher in the general child population for 2007 at 44 percent of the total population. (See Attachment A)

The data gathered for the 114 child fatality cases shows 51 of the children (45 percent) were Hispanic, 26 of the children (23 percent) were Black, 18 of the children (16 percent) were White, eight of the child fatality cases (seven percent) the ethnicity/race of the child was unknown or not documented, seven of the children (six percent) were Asian, three of the children (three percent) were categorized as "Other," and one child (one percent) was Native American. Chart F depicts the ethnicity/race of all of the child fatality and near fatality cases reported for CY 2008.

CHART F

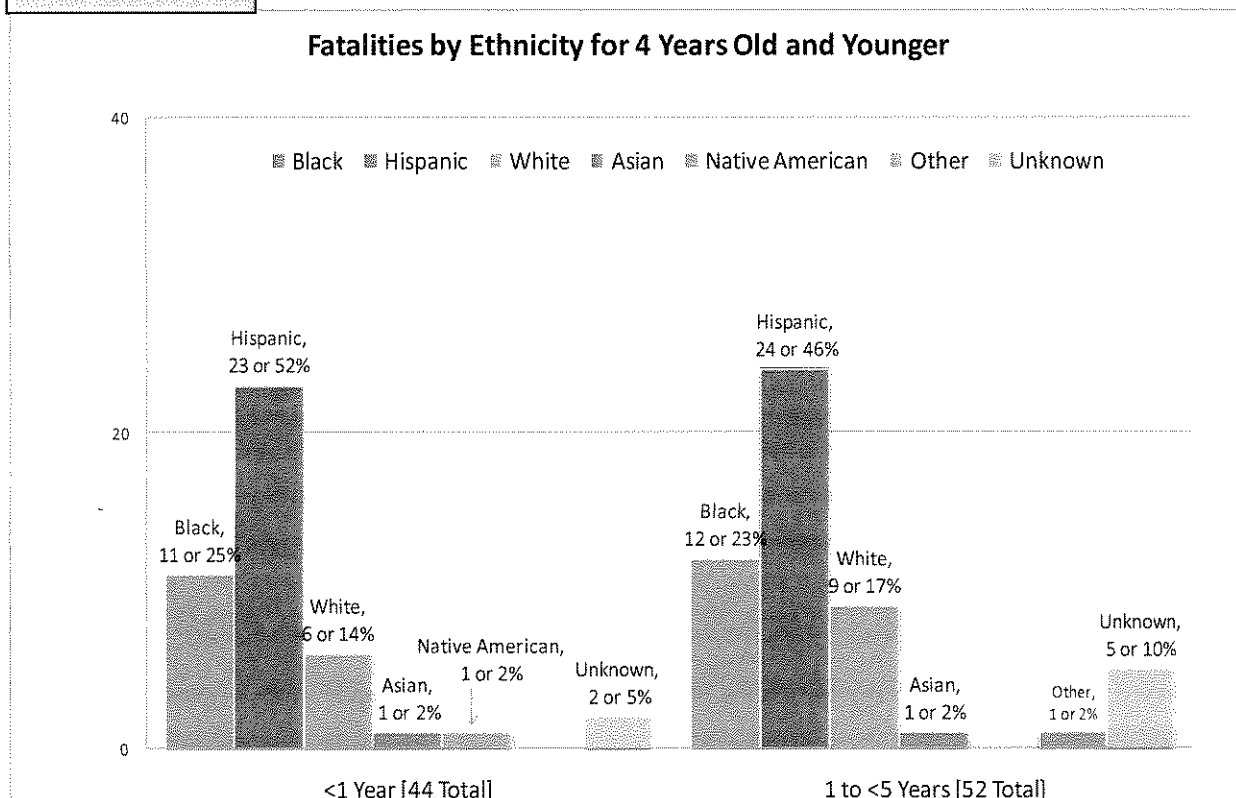


Child Fatalities: Ethnicity/Race (continued)

Of the 44 child fatality cases in the less than one year old age group, 23 children (52 percent) were Hispanic, 11 children (25 percent) were Black, six children (14 percent) were White, two children (five percent) were unknown/not documented, one child (two percent) was Asian, and one child (two percent) was Native American. Chart G depicts the ethnicity/race of child fatality cases for children four years old and younger.

Of the 52 child fatality cases in the one to four year old age group, 24 children (46 percent) were Hispanic, 12 children (23 percent) were Black, nine children (17 percent) were White, for five of the child fatality cases (ten percent) the ethnicity/race of the child was unknown or not documented, one child (two percent) was Asian, and one child (two percent) was categorized as "Other."

CHART G



Child Near Fatalities: Ethnicity/Race

With respect to ethnicity/race in the 91 child near fatalities that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect the data again shows that Hispanic children had more near fatalities than any other single category of ethnicity/race. Again, it should be noted that there was also a higher percentage of Hispanic children in the general population of children at 44 percent of the total population. (See attachment A)

Of the 91 child near fatality cases, 33 of the children (36 percent) were Hispanic, 23 of the children (25 percent) were White, 19 of the children (21 percent) were Black, for 11 of the child near fatality cases (12 percent) the ethnicity/race of the children was unknown or not documented, two of the children (two percent) were Asian, two of the children (two percent) were Native American, and one child (one percent) was documented as "Other" for ethnicity/race. (See Chart F for ethnicity/race of the total near fatality cases.)

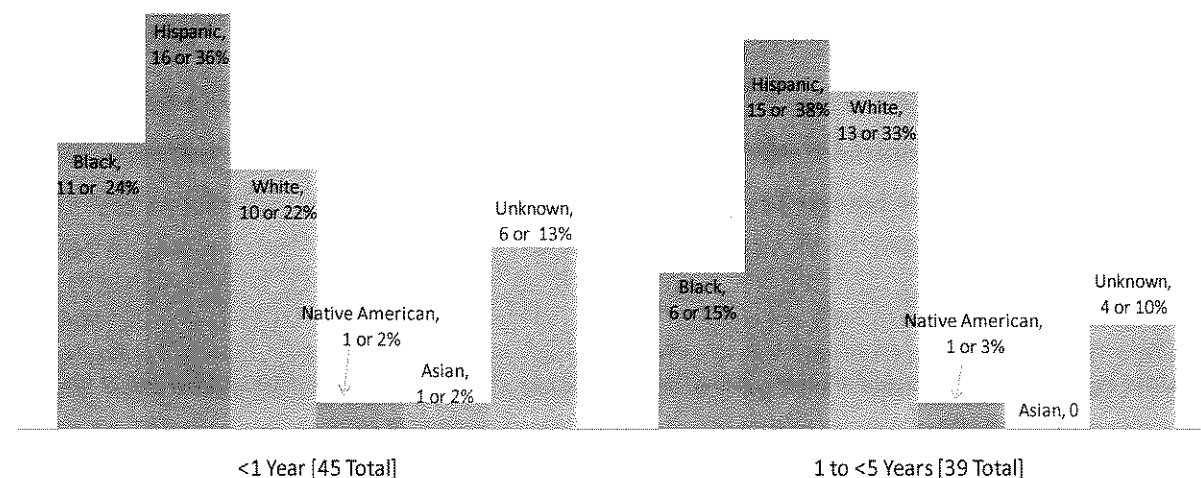
Of the 45 near fatality cases in the less than one year old age group, 16 children (36 percent) were Hispanic, 11 children (24 percent) were Black, 10 children (22 percent) were White, six children (13 percent) were of unknown or not documented ethnicity/race, one child (two percent) was Asian, and one child (two percent) was Native American. Chart H depicts the age and ethnicity for near fatality cases for children ages 4 years old and younger.

Of the 39 near fatality cases in the one to four year old age group, 15 children (38 percent) were Hispanic, 13 children (33 percent) were White, six children (15 percent) were Black, in four cases (10 percent) the ethnicity/race of the child was unknown or not documented, and one child (three percent) was Native American.

CHART H

Near Fatalities by Ethnicity for 4 Years Old and Younger

■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ White ■ Native American ■ Asian ■ Unknown



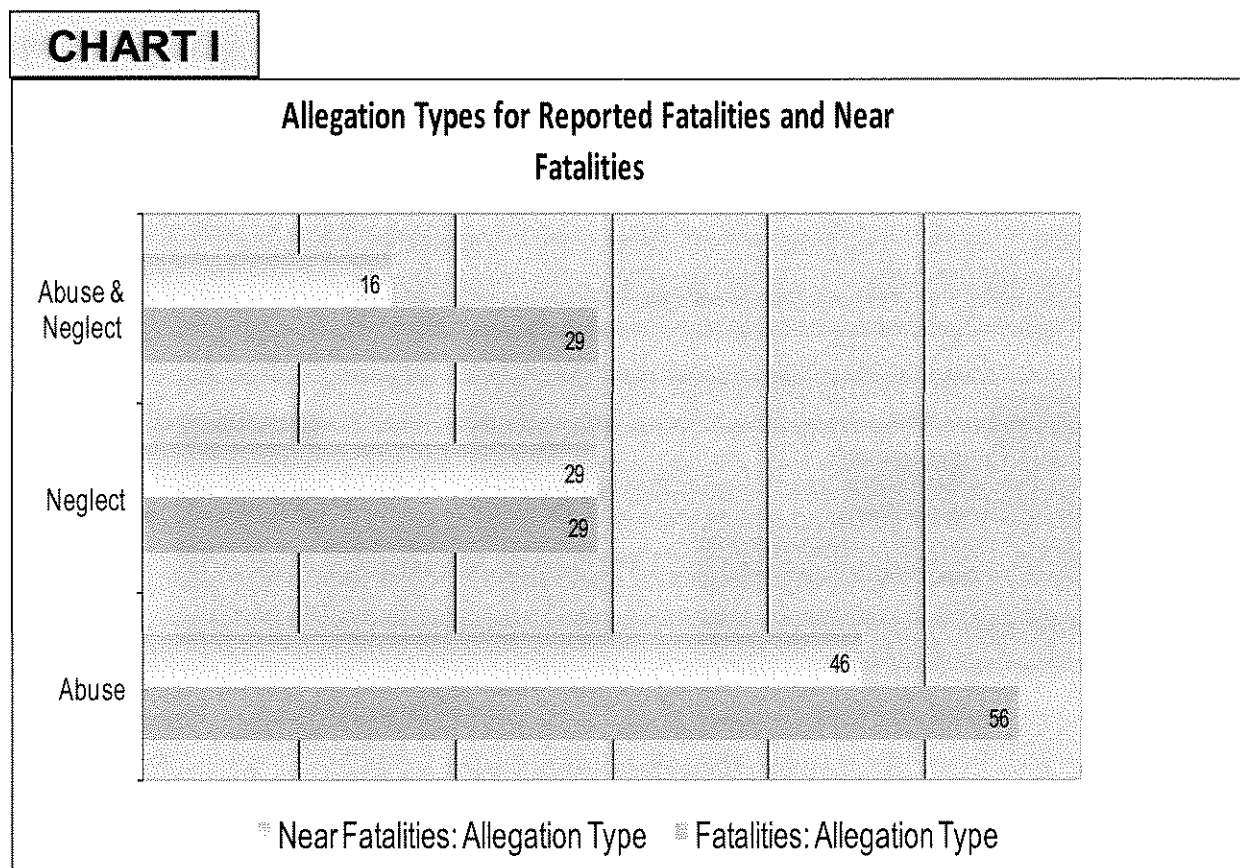
Neglect Versus Child Abuse – What is Known

Neglect is defined as the “failure of a parent(s)/guardian(s) or caretaker(s) to provide the care and protection necessary for the child’s healthy growth and development. Neglect occurs when children are physically or psychologically endangered.” (See Division 31 regulations, 31-002(n)(1); also Penal Code section 11165.2 and 42 U.S.C.A 5106 (g). Neglect is the result of the parent’s or caretaker’s failure to act, to care for and protect the child. Abuse, on the other hand, includes “physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person.” (See Welfare and Institutions Code 300 (a)-(j) and Penal Code 11165.6.)

The following data depicts the types of allegations that were investigated by the CWS agencies for the child fatality and near fatality incidents that were reported for CY 2008.

It should be noted that a combined allegation of abuse and neglect may occur when a caregiver’s failure to protect results in the child dying or nearly dying from abuse by another caregiver or individual.

Chart I depicts the allegation types for all child fatality and near fatality incidents reported for CY 2008.

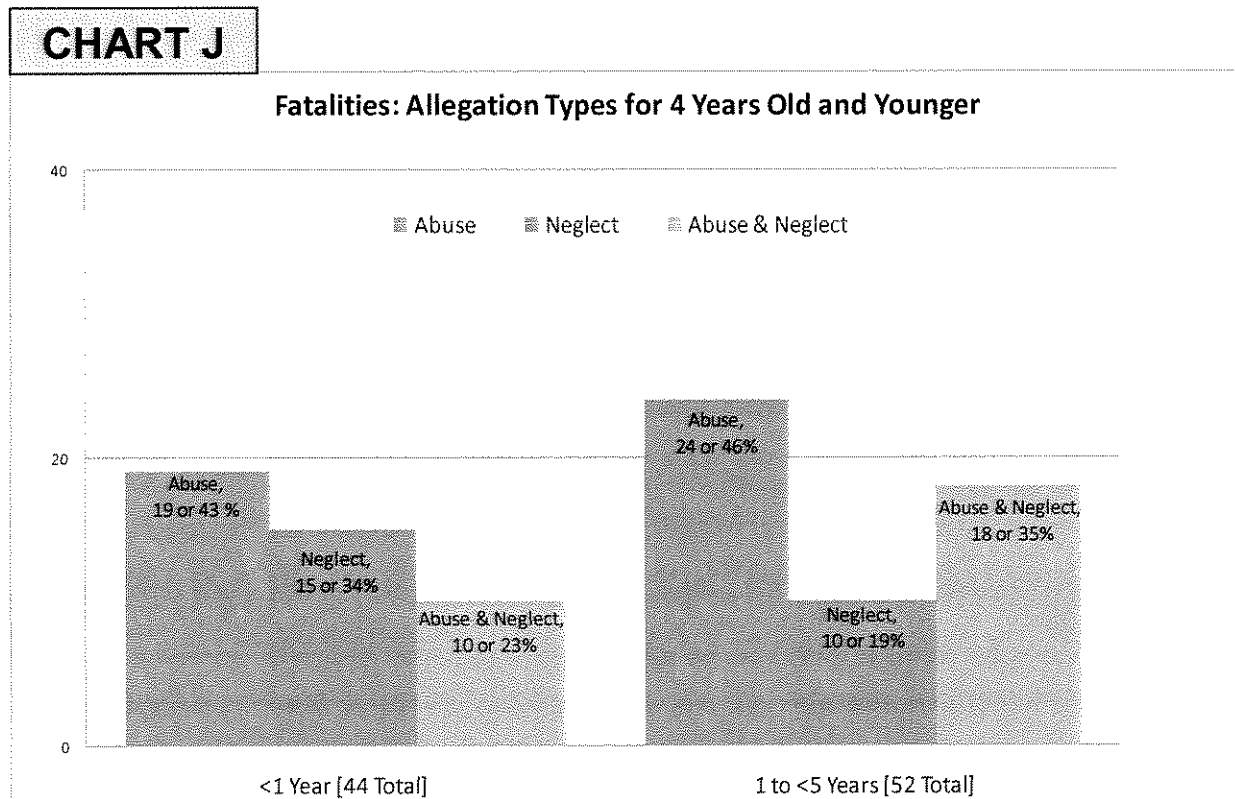


Child Fatalities: Allegation Type

For CY 2008, the data shows that nearly half of the allegations investigated, 56 of the 114 child fatality cases (49 percent), were abuse allegations. The allegation types for the remaining 58 child fatality cases were evenly divided, 29 cases (25 percent) were neglect allegations and 29 cases (25 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations. (See prior Chart I)

The allegation types for the 44 cases in the less than one-year-old age group were as follows: 19 cases (43 percent) were abuse allegations, 15 cases (34 percent) were neglect allegations and 10 cases (23 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations. The findings for the 52 fatality cases in the one to four year old age group were as follows: 24 cases (46 percent) were abuse allegations, 18 cases (35 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations, and 10 cases (19 percent) were neglect allegations.

Chart J depicts the allegation types for child fatality cases of children ages four years old and younger.

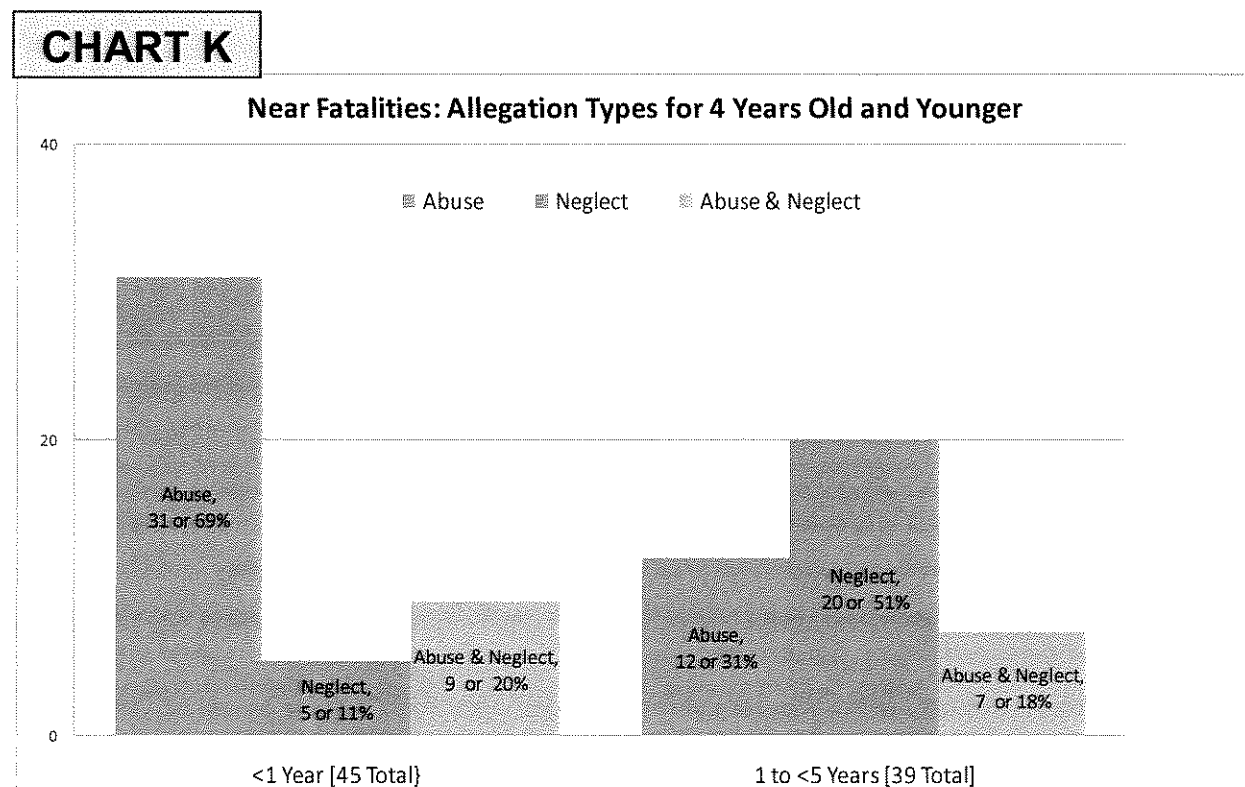


Child Near Fatalities: Allegation Type

The data for allegation type for child near fatalities was similar to that found for fatalities. Of the allegations investigated, 46 of the 91 near fatality cases (51 percent) were abuse allegations. For the remaining 45 near fatality cases, 29 cases (32 percent) were neglect allegations and 16 cases (18 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations. (See prior Chart I)

Of the 45 near fatality cases in the less than one-year-old age group, 31 cases (69 percent) were abuse allegations, nine cases (20 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations, and five cases (11 percent) were neglect allegations. For the 39 near fatality cases in the one to four year old age group, 20 cases (51 percent) were neglect allegations, 12 cases (31 percent) were abuse allegations, and seven cases (18 percent) were abuse and neglect allegations.

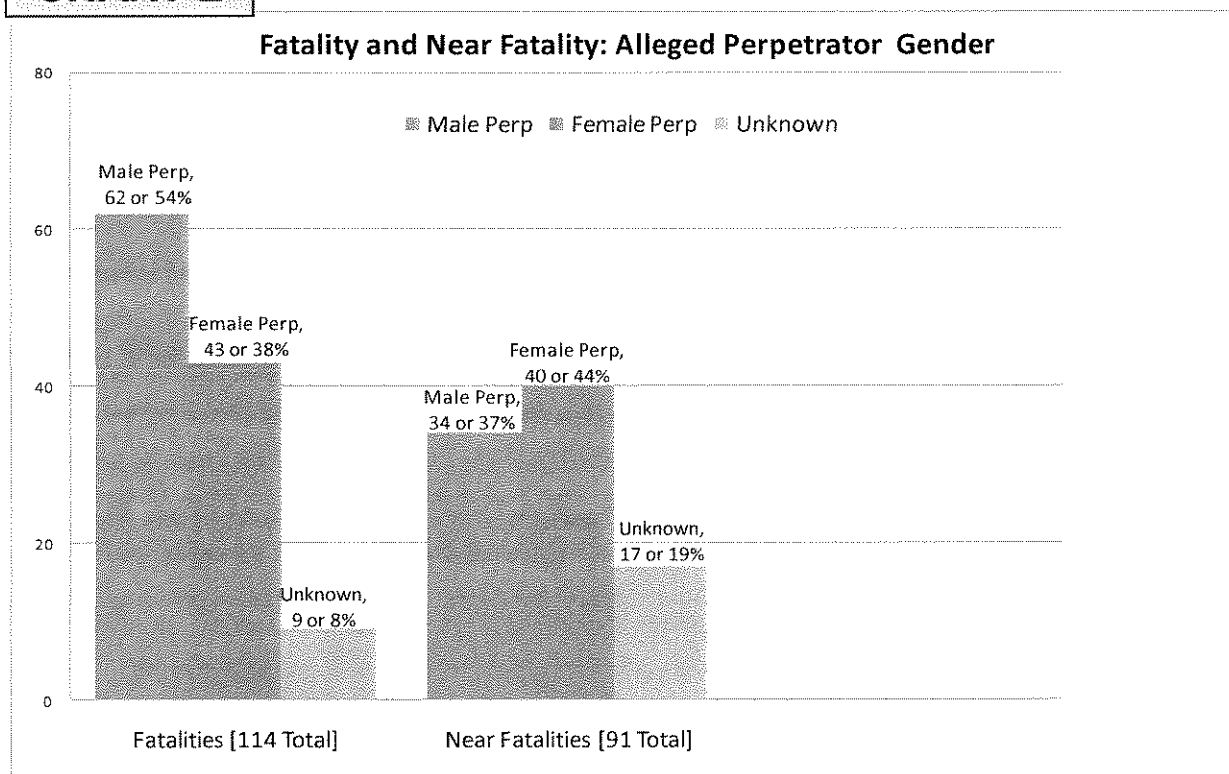
Chart K depicts the near fatality allegation types for children 4 years old and younger.



Who Was Identified as the Primary Individual Responsible for the Abuse and/or Neglect

In analyzing child fatalities and child near fatalities and addressing the issues surrounding these sensitive cases, it is important to understand who was responsible for these incidents. The following provides information regarding the primary individual responsible ("perpetrator") for the child fatality or near fatality incidents. It is also important to note that an alleged perpetrator might not be identified if, at the time of the fatality or near fatality, more than one person had access to the child. Chart L depicts the gender of the perpetrators for the reported child fatality and near fatality incidents.

CHART L



Child Fatalities: Alleged Perpetrator's Gender and Relationship to Child

It was found in the 114 child fatality cases, more males than females were identified as the person responsible for the abuse and/or neglect that led to a child's death. In 62 of the child fatality cases (54 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a male, and in 43 child fatality cases (38 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a female. In nine cases (eight percent), the identity of the alleged perpetrator was unknown. Of the 105 cases where the alleged perpetrator is known, 63 cases (or 60 percent) involved alleged perpetrators who were 30 years of age or younger. (See prior Chart L)

Child Fatalities: Alleged Perpetrator's Gender and Relationship to Child (continued)

It was also found that in 75 of the 114 child fatality cases (66 percent) the parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator. In 19 of the child fatality cases (17 percent) the parent's significant other was identified as the alleged perpetrator. In 67 (70 percent) of the 96 child fatality cases for ages four years old and younger, when the alleged perpetrator was known, the alleged perpetrators were 30 years of age or younger.

For the 52 child fatalities in the one to four year old age group, counties reported that in 32 cases (62 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a male and in 17 cases (33 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a female. In three of the cases (six percent) the identity of the alleged perpetrator was unknown. In 63 percent of the cases in this age group, when the alleged perpetrator was known, the alleged perpetrator was 30 years of age or younger. The parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator in 26 of the 52 child fatality cases (50 percent) in the one to four year old age group.

In the less than one year old age group, counties reported that in 21 of the 44 cases (48 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a male, in 18 cases (41 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a female, and in five cases (11 percent) the alleged perpetrator was unknown. The parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator in 33 of the 44 cases (75 percent).

Child Near Fatalities: Alleged Perpetrator's Gender and Relationship to Child

Unlike the data for child fatality cases, it was found that in the 91 near fatality cases, more females than males were identified as the person responsible for the near fatality that resulted from abuse and/or neglect. In 40 of these cases (44 percent) the alleged perpetrator was female. In 34 of the near fatality cases (37 percent) the alleged perpetrator was male. In 17 of the cases (19 percent), the identity of the alleged perpetrator was unknown. Again it is important to note that in 62 percent of the near fatality cases for children ages four years old and younger where the alleged perpetrator was known, the alleged perpetrator was 30 years of age or less. Furthermore, in 59 of the 91 near fatality cases (65 percent) the parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator. (See prior Chart L)

In the 45 near fatality cases for children less than one year of age, the percentage of male versus female perpetrators is different than the percentage for near fatalities for all ages. In 18 of these cases (40 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a male and in 15 cases (33 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a female. In 12 of the cases (27 percent) the identity of the alleged perpetrator was unknown. In 73 percent, where the identity of the alleged perpetrator was known, the alleged perpetrator was 30 years of age or younger. For the less than one-year-old age group, the parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator in 29 of the 45 near fatality cases (64 percent).

In the 39 near fatalities in the one to four year old age group, fewer males were identified as the person responsible for the near fatality. In 20 of these cases (51 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a female and in 15 of these cases (38 percent) the alleged perpetrator was a male. In four cases (10 percent) the identity of the alleged perpetrator was unknown. In 54 percent of the cases where the alleged perpetrator was known, he/she was 30 years of age or younger. In 23 of the 39 near fatalities in this age group (59 percent) the parent/guardian was identified as the alleged perpetrator.

Specific Cause/Finding of Incident

Fatalities:

The specific cause of death finding for the 114 child fatalities that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect during CY 2008 are categorized in the table below and depicted in Chart M. A review of these cases indicates that the number one finding for cause of death is non-accidental head and body trauma.

56 Blunt Force Trauma (head and/or body)*
13 Unknown
12 Murder/Suicide**
9 Shaken Baby Syndrome
9 Drowning

5 Vehicular Accidents
3 Other ***
3 Co-Sleeping with Contributing Factors
2 Ingested Substance
1 Failure to Thrive
1 Burns

For the 96 fatalities in which the children were age four years old and younger, the finding for specific cause of fatality in 53 of the cases (55 percent) was Blunt Force Trauma. However, that percentage rises to 65 percent if the nine cases identified as "Shaken Baby Syndrome" are also added to the total (62 of 96 incidents).

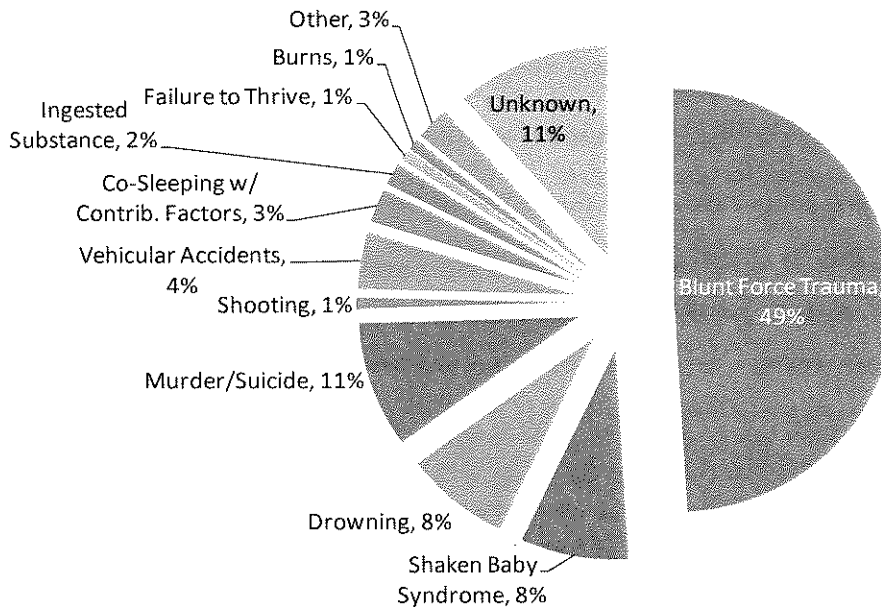
*May include some shaken baby syndrome cases that were not specifically documented in CWS/CMS as such.

**The 12 murder/suicides represent situations where the alleged perpetrator shot their victims and then shot and killed themselves.

*** "Other" includes but is not limited to: failure to seek medical help, malnourishment and drug/alcohol exposure.

CHART M

Fatalities: Specific Cause of Incident



Child Near Fatalities:

The specific cause of the 91 child near fatalities that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect during CY 2008 are listed in the table below and depicted in Chart N. Similar to the child fatality cases, a review of these cases indicates that the number one reported cause of the near fatalities is non-accidental head and body trauma.

41 Blunt Force Trauma (head and/or body)*	4 Vehicular Accidents
21 Shaken Baby Syndrome	3 Attempted Murder/Suicide**
8 Ingested Substance	1 Failure to Thrive
7 Other***	1 Burns
5 Near Drowning	

For the 84 near fatalities in which children were age four years old and younger the reported cause of the near fatality in 40 cases (48 percent) was blunt force trauma. The percentage, however, rises to 73 percent if the 21 cases identified as "Shaken Baby Syndrome" are added to the total (61 of 84 cases).

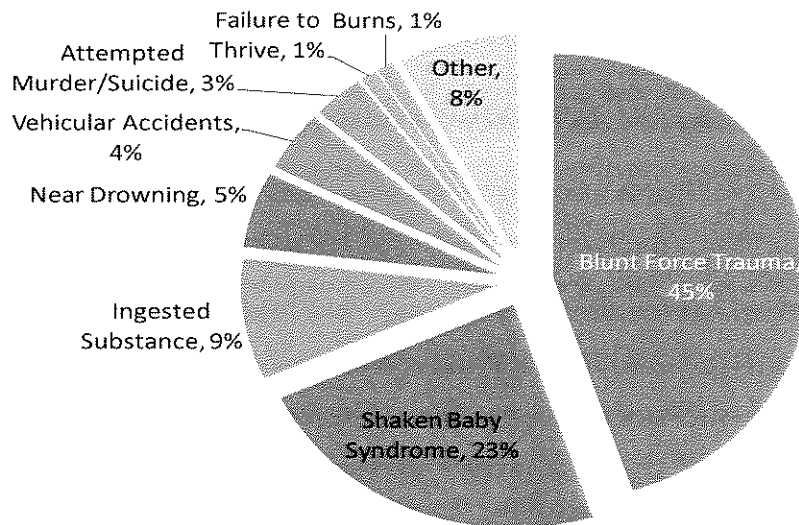
*May include some shaken baby syndrome cases that were not specifically documented in CWS/CMS as such.

**The 3 attempted murder/suicide represent situations where the alleged perpetrator shot their victims and then shot and killed themselves.

***Other" includes but is not limited to: failure to seek medical help, malnourishment, and severe neglect.

CHART N

Near Fatalities: Specific Cause of Incident



What is Known about Prior Child Welfare Services Involvement in the Past Five Years

Fatalities

In reviewing the 114 notifications for child fatalities that were the result of abuse and/or neglect submitted by counties for CY 2008, it appears that 55 percent had no prior CWS history in the last five years. For those cases that did have prior CWS history the reader should keep in mind that prior CWS history does not necessarily mean that a child or family had an open CWS case. In many cases, the CWS history included allegations and/or referrals that were determined to be unfounded, inconclusive, or evaluated out*. Additionally, the CWS history may not have included the child who was the subject of the fatality or the same household composition at the time of the fatality.

The breakdown for the 114 child fatality cases included 63 cases (55 percent) that had no prior CWS history in the last five years and 51 (45 percent) cases which were previously known to the CWS agency. (See Chart O)

The CWS agency involvement in those 51 cases includes:

37 Not a current client of the CWS
agency

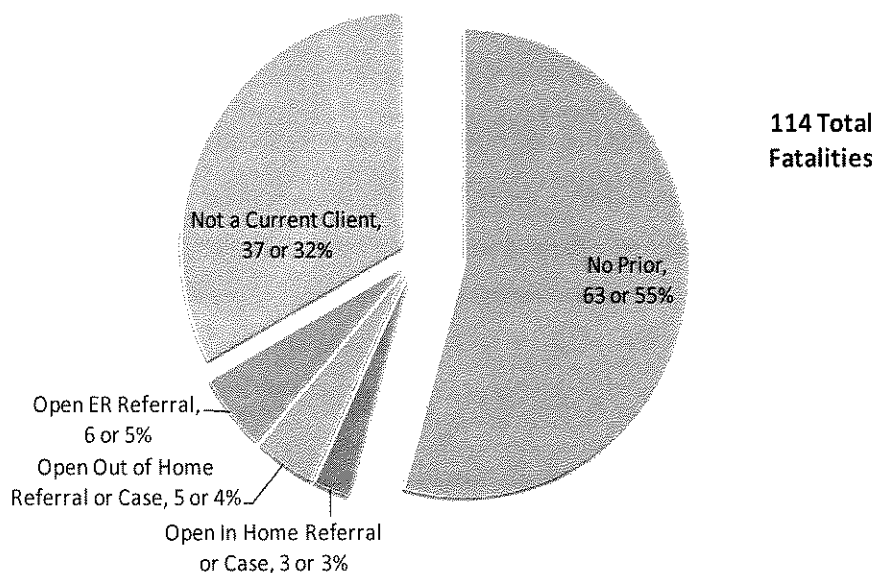
5 Placed out-of-home with an open case receiving
services**

6 Open Emergency Response Referral
at the time of death***

3 Living in the home of the parent or
guardian with an open child welfare
case or referral

CHART O

Fatality: CWS History



Fatalities (continued)

In the one to four year old age group, 21 of the 52 cases (40 percent) had no prior CWS history. In the 31 cases where the child or family was previously known to a CWS agency 23 cases (74 percent) were not a current client of a CWS agency, five cases (16 percent) were in an open Emergency Response (ER) referral, there were two cases (six percent) in which the child was in out-of-home care receiving services, and one case (three percent) in which the child was living in the home of his/her parent(s) and receiving services.

For children less than one year of age, 30 of the 44 cases (68 percent) had no prior CWS history. In the 14 cases where the child or family was previously known to a CWS agency, 11 cases (79 percent) were not current clients of a CWS agency, two cases (14 percent) were living in out-of-home placements and receiving services, and one case (seven percent) was in an open ER referral.

*Note: For purposes of this report, the term "evaluated out" is described in MPP Division 31-105.116 as part of the decision making process for determining "whether an in-person investigation is required," and is included in the "outcome options," which are listed in that section as "(a) Evaluate out with no referral to another community agency; (b) Evaluate out, with a referral to an appropriate community agency; or (c) Accept for in-person investigation."

**Note: One of the five children placed in out-of-home care died as a result of abuse that occurred prior to the child entering foster care and was not the result of abuse and/or neglect in foster care.

***Note: Emergency Response Referral is a document where information is documented by the county in response to a hotline call reporting child abuse and/or neglect. This is the first step in the investigation process.

Near Fatalities

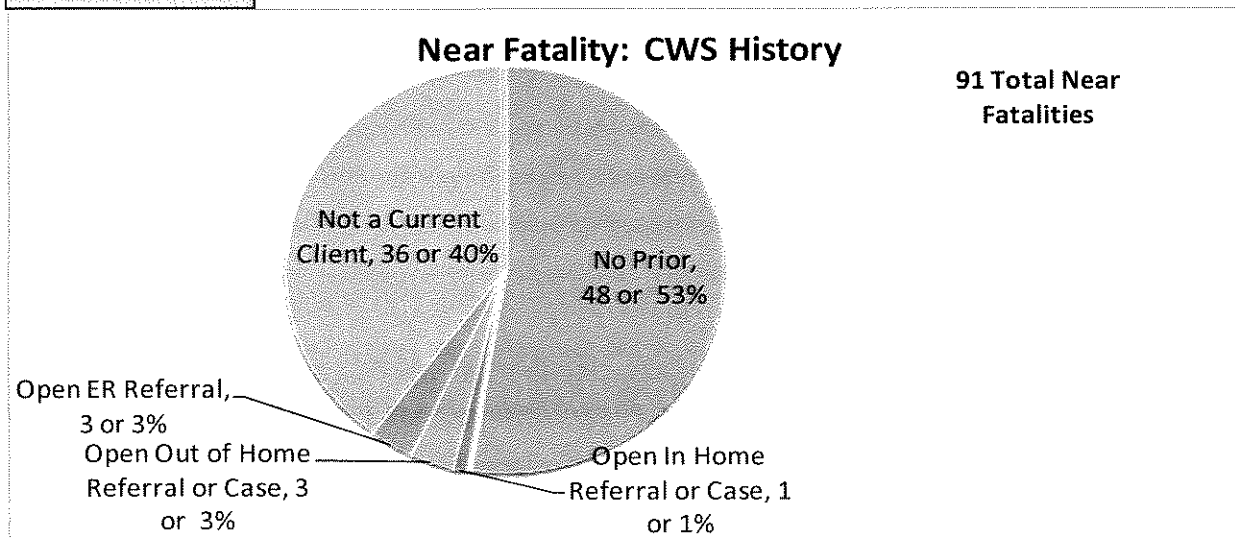
In reviewing the 91 notifications submitted by counties for child near fatalities that were determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect, it appears that 53 percent had no prior CWS history in the last five years. Again the reader is cautioned to keep in mind that prior CWS history does not necessarily mean that a child or family had an open CWS case. In many cases, the CWS history included allegations and/or referrals that were determined to be unfounded, inconclusive, or evaluated out. Additionally, the CWS history may not have included the child who was the subject of the near fatality or the same household composition at the time of the near fatality.

The breakdown for the 91 near fatality cases included 48 cases (53 percent) that had no prior CWS history and 43 cases (47 percent) which were previously known to the CWS agency. The CWS agency involvement in those 43 cases was: (See Chart P)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 36 Not a current client of the CWS agency | 3 Placed out-of-home with an open case receiving services |
| 3 Open ER Referral at the time of death | 1 Living in the home of the parent or guardian with an open child welfare case or referral |

In the one to four year old age group, 13 of the 39 cases (33 percent) had no prior CWS history. Of the remaining 26 near fatality cases in this age group, 22 were cases (85 percent) in which a member of the family was previously known to the CWS agency but not receiving services at the time of the child near fatality, three cases (12 percent) had an open ER referral, and in one case (four percent) a child was living in an out-of-home placement and receiving services. In the less than one year old age group, 33 of the 45 cases (73 percent) had no prior CWS history in the last five years. Of the remaining 12 near fatality cases, there were 10 cases (83 percent) in which a member of the household was previously known to the CWS agency but not receiving services at the time of the near fatality, one case (eight percent) in which a child was living at home and receiving services, and one case (eight percent) in which a child was living in an out-of-home placement and receiving services.

CHART P



III. Conclusion

The information provided in this report represents a compilation of aggregate data for those child fatalities and near fatalities resulting from abuse and/or neglect that occurred during CY 2008 and were reported by counties via SOC 826 forms. In reviewing this data it is important to remember that the data compiled for this report only represents those child fatalities and near fatalities for which all of the following occurred: 1) the CWS agency became aware of the fatality or near fatality, 2) the fatality or near fatality was determined to be the result of abuse or neglect, and 3) the fatality or near fatality was reported to the CDSS via the SOC 826 County Statement of Findings and Information Form.

As stated earlier, the data in this report differs from the child fatality data the CDSS annually submits to the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families via the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The child fatality totals, provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), are estimates based on the reconciliation of the following data sources: CDPH Vital Statistics Deaths; Department of Justice (DOJ) Homicide File; DOJ Child Abuse Central Index; and CDPH Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Surveillance data from local child death review teams. Therefore, NCANDS child fatality totals will differ from the figures contained in this report.

The aggregate data contained in this report does, however, shed some light on those child fatalities and near fatalities that were reported to the CDSS for CY 2008. The data demonstrates that the most vulnerable population subject to child fatalities and near fatalities resulting from abuse and/or neglect was our youngest populations, children four years old and younger. Additionally, the data shows that abuse played a greater contributing factor to these fatalities and near fatalities than did neglect. With respect to the perpetrators of these incidences, the data shows that in a large percentage of these cases the perpetrator was known to the child as the child's parent/guardian or parent's significant other and was under the age of 30 at the time of the incident. Lastly, the data highlights that the number one cause of these fatalities and/or near fatalities was non-accidental head and body trauma, including Shaken Baby Syndrome.

We continue learning about the causes and circumstances of child fatalities and near fatalities resulting from abuse and/or neglect. The CDSS is committed to continuing to collect and compare this data in future years.

IV. Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

California Children Population 2008:

Age	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino						
			White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	Some Other Race Alone	Multi-race
Under 5 years	2,486,981	1,187,878	788,472	160,116	11,585	214,466	7,761	6,932	109,771
		48%	32%	6%	1%	8%	1%	1%	5%
5 to 9 years	2,725,880	1,236,768	918,430	195,303	14,080	238,473	9,339	7,442	106,045
10 to 14 years	2,570,822	1,043,433	961,056	194,672	14,834	246,037	9,298	6,626	94,866
15 to 17 years	1,466,146	582,746	554,900	103,729	8,613	156,771	5,408	3,579	50,400
Total	9,249,829	4,050,825	3,222,858	653,820	49,112	855,747	31,806	24,579	361,082
		44%	35%	7%	1%	10%	1%	1%	4%
Male:									
Under 5 years	1,272,884	606,583	405,043	81,436	5,934	110,299	4,009	3,494	56,086
		47%	32%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
5 to 9 years	1,396,480	632,224	472,756	99,183	7,210	122,746	4,779	3,823	53,759
10 to 14 years	1,317,135	533,143	493,819	98,901	7,581	127,477	4,766	3,392	48,056
15 to 17 years	758,039	303,367	285,802	53,488	4,430	80,980	2,842	1,806	25,324
Total	4,744,538	2,075,317	1,657,420	333,008	25,155	441,502	16,396	12,515	183,225
		44%	35%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Female:									
Under 5 years	1,214,097	581,295	383,429	78,680	5,651	104,167	3,752	3,438	53,685
		48%	32%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
5 to 9 years	1,329,400	604,544	445,674	96,120	6,870	115,727	4,560	3,619	52,286
10 to 14 years	1,253,687	510,290	467,237	95,771	7,253	118,560	4,532	3,234	46,810
15 to 17 years	708,107	279,379	269,098	50,241	4,183	75,791	2,566	1,773	25,076
Total	4,505,291	1,975,508	1,565,438	320,812	23,957	414,245	15,410	12,064	177,857
		44%	35%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

*State of California, Department of Finance, E-3 Race / Ethnic Population Estimates with Age and Sex Detail, 2000--2007. Sacramento, CA, May 2009 (<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/data/e-3/>)

ATTACHMENT B

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S SERVICES OPERATIONS BUREAU
(916) 651-8100

CHILD FATALITY/NEAR FATALITY COUNTY STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS:

Counties shall complete this form for each child fatality/near fatality determined to be a result of abuse and/or neglect. The form shall be submitted to CDSS within ten business days of notification of final determination from the investigating agency.

For a child fatality, complete parts A and B.

For a child near fatality, complete parts A and C.

PART A - ALWAYS COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION FOR CDSS SUBMISSION

Date form completed: _____ ☐ Fatality ☐ Near Fatality

Note: Redact information in this box prior to the public release of this document.

CWS/MS 19 DIGIT REFERRAL # OF CHILD VICTIM:

COUNTY CONTACT AND PHONE NUMBER (INDIVIDUAL THAT CDSS WOULD CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION):

COUNTY WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED:

REPORTING COUNTY (IF DIFFERENT):

CHILD'S GENDER:

☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

CHILD'S AGE:

DATE OF FATALITY/NEAR FATALITY (IF KNOWN):

RESIDENCE OF THE CHILD AT THE TIME OF THE ABUSE/NEGLECT THAT RESULTED IN THE FATALITY/NEAR FATALITY:

☐ Home of parent/
legal guardian ☐ Foster Care/Out-of-Home Care

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY:

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ CWS/Probation

PART B - CHILD FATALITY FINDINGS - CONCLUSION OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

DETERMINATION MADE BY:

☐ Coroner/
Medical Examiner ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ CWS/Probation

FINDINGS OF CHILD FATALITY DUE TO (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

☐ Crime ☐ Suicide ☐ Non-Accidental ☐ Undetermined ☐ Other: _____

PART C - CHILD NEAR FATALITY FINDINGS - CONCLUSION OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

DETERMINATION MADE BY:

☐ Physician ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ CWS/Probation

FINDINGS OF CHILD NEAR FATALITY DUE TO (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

☐ Crime ☐ Attempted
Suicide ☐ Non-Accidental ☐ Undetermined ☐ Other: _____

DO NOT INCLUDE A NARRATIVE; CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES ABOVE.

Please fax this form to:
Children's Services Operations Bureau,
Attention: Bureau Chief at (916) 651-8144.

SOC 825 (5/00)

CALIFORNIA CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

Background and Purpose:

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was originally enacted in 1974 to provide annual grants to states. The purpose of the grant was to improve the state's child protective services system and was based on the population of children under 18. Since 1974, there have been additional amendments to CAPTA. In 1996, an amendment added a new eligibility requirement for states to establish Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) as oversight to the states' child protective services system. Under the legislation, each state is required to establish no less than three CRPs, with the exception of states that receive the minimum allotment under the statute. The panel members are to be volunteers who are broadly representative of the community at large to include concerned citizens, experts in child protection and prevention, advocacy, foster care, education, mental health, the court system, law enforcement, and children services. The mandate of the CRPs is to "evaluate the extent to which the agencies (state and local) are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities." The panels are required to examine policies, procedures, and where appropriate, specific cases handled by the state and local agencies providing child protective services.

The federal statute broadly defines the function of CRPs. The panel must meet not less than once every three months and must produce an annual public report containing a summary of their activities. In June 2003, CAPTA was amended when the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act" was signed by the President. This revised the CRP duties to include: 1) requiring each panel to examine the practices (in addition to policies and procedures) of the state and local child welfare agencies, 2) providing for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community, and 3) requiring each panel to make recommendations to the state and public on improving the child protective services system. In addition, the appropriate state agency is required to respond in writing no later than six months after the panel recommendations are submitted. The state agency's response must include a description of whether or how the state will incorporate the recommendation of the panel (where appropriate) to make measurable progress in improving the state child protective services system.

Program Structure:

The California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) administers California's CRPs. Currently there are panels in Calaveras, San Mateo, and Ventura counties and a statewide panel. These panels are reflective of the demographic, economic, social, and political climate

found in different areas throughout the state depicting the varied conditions of child protective services in California. Technical assistance, guidance and coordination are available through OCAP. Additionally, technical assistance via a sub-contract with a consultant is provided through Strategies, Region II. During this reporting period approximately 120 hours of technical assistance have been provided by the consultant to the county panels, state panel and to OCAP.

Overview of Current Activities at the State Oversight Level:

The OCAP staff, in conjunction with the CRP consultant and the CRPs, is focusing on building strong panels that are reflective of their communities and are able to partner with local and statewide child protective service systems, as well as each other, to enhance the safety and well being of children.

The following activities/goals were established by OCAP in response to these requests:

- Convening of representatives from each panel at one site to provide information sharing, technical assistance and networking opportunities. The meeting was held on June 15, 2010. OCAP with the help of the National Resource Center for Child Protection, was fortunate to be able to bring a nationally recognized expert on Citizen Review Panels to the meeting. It has proven to be a great opportunity for the panels to share successes and challenges and for OCAP staff to clarify guidelines and expectations. We expect the future outcome to be better functioning panels that have a clearer understanding of what is required by CAPTA, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and OCAP.
- Promote information sharing and networking within the four California panels as well as with panels in other states. Panels now have access to the national CRP website www.uky.edu/SocialWork/crp.
- Encourage panels to review the PIP developed in response to California's CFS. Promote their involvement in implementation and monitoring components of the plan impacting their communities.
- Continue to contract services with the CRP consultant. The consultant is a valuable source of information and is helping to train and provide technical assistance to the panels. Additionally, the CRPs have met with the national expert and now have another resource for technical assistance, networking and educational opportunities.

The CAPTA requirements are broadly defined. The OCAP is reviewing current guidelines and considering their value to the structure of California CRPs.

- Some modifications and deletions to these guidelines have been made.
- OCAP is planning to create regulations to formalize the CRP processes.

A new funding cycle for CRPs began July 1, 2009, and will end June 30, 2012.

- The selection process for the funding cycle began with the issuance of an All County Information Notice (ACIN) requesting applications from counties to operate a CRP. Existing participants were invited to continue with the possibility of having three to five panels in California. All three of the existing panels submitted letters of intent to continue. All three were extended through the funding cycle ending June 30, 2012.
- Applications were submitted and reviewed using a point system based on the responses to the questions outlined in the ACIN. Panels chosen will have funding available to assist in covering the cost associated with conducting a panel. Ventura County was selected and became the fourth CRP in California.

PANEL INFORMATION

Calaveras County

County Profile:

Calaveras County is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains – 133 miles east of San Francisco and 135 miles west of Lake Tahoe, midway along state Highway 49, which links the towns of the Gold Country.

The population for Calaveras County is approximately 46,844 residents of which 8,611 are children 18 years and younger. The breakdowns of the county racial demographics are as follows: 92.7 percent Caucasian, 10.6 percent Latino/Hispanic, 1.8 percent Native American Indian, 1.4 percent Asian, 1.2 percent Black and 2.8 percent reporting two or more races. The county child protection agency received 933 child abuse referrals of which 129 were substantiated cases. There are 73 children in placement.¹

Activities:

- All members have signed a statement of confidentiality regarding the security and privacy of information obtained. Each member received a binder with the reference manual for California CRPs and CRP Guidelines and Protocols. Members understand that the scope of work defines the goals to be achieved for the year and reviewed it for clarification.
- The Calaveras CRP maintained consistent membership throughout the year. Membership continues to be made up of the Prevent Child Abuse Council with additional members (representing Probation and the community). Members represent Child Welfare, Public Health, Behavioral Health-Substance Abuse, Early Education, Public Schools and foster parents.
- Members discussed and followed up on recruitment of specific community individuals with an interest in the CRP activities. These include foster

¹ Information provided by the Census Bureau and the Center for Social Research, University of California at Berkeley Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Glasser, T., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Lou, C.

parents, high school Peer Mentor Program personnel, the local college, and the District Attorney's office. The outcome of the recruitment was presented to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and a new recruitment press release was issued.

- The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency's (CWHSA) Services Program Manager, provides monthly feedback from the Children's Services unit including county statistics regarding maltreatment recurrence, reunification, adoption, and permanency. This has provided the panel with a greater understanding of local changes in child welfare and areas requiring the most improvement.

Recommendations:

The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency (CWHSA) can designate responsibility to provide ongoing leadership to:

1. Assemble a short-term work group (a Reunification Support team) to decide how to best support mothers in the Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Program at reunification. This was cited as the most critical time for relapse and when the most support is needed.
2. Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Multidisciplinary Team Meetings. A member of the CRP attends these weekly meetings and has seen the value in bringing together a diverse group of agency representatives to make recommendations on services for children and families.
3. Seek opportunities for collaboration with local agencies that provide parent education, family support, in-home parent education and services related to child welfare.
4. Utilize existing or new mechanisms to provide opportunities for the client or parent voice to be heard when policies or strategies are developed and implemented.

Future Direction:

The Calaveras Citizen Review Panel discussed a variety of possibilities for the objectives of this funding cycle. It was decided that the panel would evaluate and address the needs of the Independent Living Program (ILP). The ILP provides training, services and programs to assist current and former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system. Youth are eligible ILP services up to the day before their twenty-first birthday provided certain criteria are met. Some of the services provided through ILP include: daily living skills, money management, decision making, building self-esteem, financial assistance with college or vocational schools, educational resources, transitional housing and employment.

Youth transitioning out of foster care face many challenges from a lack of a supportive person in their lives; reproductive health, parenting and pre-parenting skills; college readiness, toxic stress of domestic violence and abuse; and housing after they leave foster care. An initial meeting was held with the ILP Coordinator to identify some of the larger concerns.

Submitted to Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency on 11/11/09
Submitted to CDSS/OCAP on 11/11/09

**Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency
Response to the Citizen's Review Panel's
Annual & Recommendations Report
(2008/2009 Program Year)**

The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency's (CWHSA) Children's Services staff sincerely appreciates the members of the Calaveras County Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) for their willingness to assist us in improving our Child Welfare Services. We were pleased that you again chose to focus your efforts on strategizing ways to reduce the number of children who re-enter foster care within twelve months of reunifying with their parents. It is heart-breaking to have families that we have worked with so closely fail, especially for the children who are removed yet again from the parents that had seemingly overcome the barriers that they were faced with. Our foster care re-entry rates were still not at the level we wished for them to be, and we welcomed your suggestions for improvement in this area.

Here are our responses to the findings and/or recommendations from the Annual & Recommendations Report (2008/2009 Program Year):

1. Assemble a short-term work group (a Reunification Support team) to decide how to best support mothers in the Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Program at reunification. This was sited as the most critical time for relapse and when the most support is needed.

In addition to our Multi-Disciplinary Team (see #2 below), our Children's Services staff has been invited to attend periodic Behavioral Health Services' Children's Case Management team meetings. Attendees at these meetings include the parents, the BHS staff (Substance Abuse Program staff as well as Mental Health staff, when applicable) and other interested service providers and support people that are identified by the parents. This gives our staff the opportunity to work with those who know the family best to help determine what available services will be the most helpful to the family in maintaining their sobriety as well as the safety of their children once they are reunited. These meetings occur as needed, but generally no less than once per month. We are committed to continuing to attend these periodic meetings to come up with strategies to best support reuniting families.

Additionally, we hold Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings whenever there are significant changes in a family's situation, including but not limited to: Case Plan development; relative placement decisions; 3-month reviews with "fast track" cases (children under 3 years of age at the time of removal); 7-day notices from substitute care providers; 90-day Transitional Independent Living Plans (for children about to emancipate from foster care). Parents are either mandated or strongly encouraged to attend, and can invite any support people that they wish to include.

2. Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Multidisciplinary Team Meetings. A member of the CRP, Robin Davis, attends these weekly meetings and has seen the value in bringing together a diverse group of agency representatives to make recommendations on services for children and families.

Calaveras County has a strong Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), and the CRP's Robin Davis has been a valuable addition. MDT meetings are a crucial part of the Juvenile Court process. Although the Welfare and Institutions Code mandates that a MDT meeting is held prior to the Dispositional Hearings, the CWHSA and our Juvenile Court Judge believe so strongly in the MDT process that we have agreed to hold an MDT meeting just prior to every Dependency Hearing.

We agree that continued monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the MDT will be a helpful piece in preventing foster care re-entry. Either the Children's Services Supervisor or Program Manager will continue to periodically attend MDT meetings whenever issues arise or to implement new changes. Additionally, the MDT Chairperson changes annually. The Children's Services Program Manager and Supervisor will meet with the out-going and in-coming Chairpersons just prior to the transition to discuss any concerns or notable trends.

3. Seek opportunities for collaboration with local agencies that provide parent education, family support, in-home parent education and services related to child welfare.

As noted above, the MDT is an ideal setting for collaboration with other agencies. In addition, the Children's Services staff has representatives on virtually every local board, commission, coalition, council and committee that focus on child protection and safety. We are committed to continuing our representation in these existing collaborative efforts, as well as those that are created in the future.

4. Utilize existing or new mechanisms to provide opportunities for the client or parent voice to be heard when policies or strategies are developed and implemented.

There have not been any new policies or strategies that have been developed or implemented in the recent past, but we will keep this recommendation in mind for future policy and strategy development. Until then, in addition to the BHS Children's Case Management team meetings and TDMs, the Children's Services social workers are mandated to meet with parents in-person at least once a month during Family

Reunification and Family Maintenance to review their case plan and discuss any questions, concerns or issues they may have.

To summarize, here are the commitments we have made in this Response report:

1. Continue attending BHS Children's Case Management team meetings;
2. Continue to mandate or encourage parents to attend all TDMs;
3. Attendance at periodic MDT meetings by the Children's Services Program Manager or Supervisor to resolve issues and implement changes;
4. Facilitate meetings between the Children's Services Program Manager and Supervisor and the out-going and in-coming MDT Chairpersons annually, just prior to the transition, to discuss any concerns or notable trends;
5. Continue to have representation on all local child protection and safety collaborative efforts;
6. Include parents in the development and implementation of future policies and strategies.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful review and recommendations. We appreciate your hard work and dedication in helping us reduce the foster care re-entry rate in Calaveras County, and in improving Calaveras County's Children's Services in general. We are pleased to report that the most recent Quarterly Data Report (dated April 6, 2010) reflects that 3 in 27 children (11.1%) re-entered foster care between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008. The statewide average was 11.6% for the same time period. This is already a reduction from our previous statistic of 12.5%, and a significant reduction from our baseline statistic of 27.8%. Although we just missed the National goal of 9.9% (2 in 27 children), we recognize that re-entry for even one child is a tragedy. It is our sincere hope and belief that through the above efforts, the foster care re-entry rate will decrease further in the future.

Submitted to CRP: 5/10/2010 at 11:38 am

Submitted to OCAP: 5/10/2010 at 12:25 p.m

San Mateo County

County Profile:

San Mateo County is located in the western portion of the San Francisco Bay Area, directly below the city and county of San Francisco. It is one of California's most affluent counties and part of the "Silicon Valley," home of many high-tech firms.

The population for San Mateo County is approximately 712,690 residents of which 171,843 are children 18 years and younger. The breakdown of the county racial demographics are as follows: 67.2 percent Caucasian, 23.4 percent Latino/Hispanic, 24 .2 percent Asian, 3.3 percent Black, 1.4 percent Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, less than 1 percent Native American Indians, and 3..4 percent report two or more races. The county child protection

agency received 4,438 child abuse referrals of which 563 were substantiated cases. There are 299 children in placement.²

Activities:

- Working with a site developer, CRP planned and implemented an interactive website www.smcpr.org. It is designed to be the cornerstone of CRP's outreach efforts providing information about the mission and goals of the group, products of past work, and an opportunity for members of the public to contact CRP with thoughts and input and also a restricted access section for CRP members.
- The CRP developed and printed an informational brochure to use in outreach efforts. The brochure corresponds with the web site, using the logo that exists on the web. A distribution plan is being developed and the brochure will be translated into Spanish.
- The CRP developed and implemented an outreach plan for 2008-09:
 1. Place an article in the Community Information Program (CIP) newsletter.
 2. Develop two-way links from the CRP website to related websites.
 3. Add CRP information to the CIP website.
 4. Place CRP brochures in areas where members of the public have access (libraries, schools, adult education, Youth and Family Enrichment Services Hotline).
 5. Use member connections to place articles about CRP in appropriate newsletters.
- The San Mateo CRP developed an orientation manual for new members and made it available to all Panel members. In addition, an orientation process was adopted. It calls for new members to meet one on one with the Panel Chair(s) for an orientation session. Members new to the Panel this year have all completed the first orientation session and commented in the meetings that they found it very helpful.
- For the third year, the CRP completed a self-evaluation process, using a scaled rating system and written comments.
- The CRP reviewed the recommendation related information it received during the past year and agreed to a "finding" for each recommendation.
- The CRP followed up on the prior year's annual report recommendation, including any county and state responses to the recommendations.

Recommendations:

² Information provided by the Census Bureau and the Center for Social Research, University of California at Berkeley Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Glasser, T., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Lou, C.

1. Children and Family Services should develop a Team Decision Making (TDM) Advisory Committee to assess whether the current model is working as intended, to review and analyze evaluation data for both the "process" and the "outcomes" of TDM meetings and to make recommendations for improvements based on that data.
2. Children and Family Services should support families in the child welfare system by providing the following:
 - a. Information and education about how the system works,
 - b. Peer support from other parents who have experience with the system
 - c. Relevant resources to enable families to be full and successful participants in the reunification process.

Submitted to CDSS/OCAP: October 30, 2009

Submitted to Beverly Beasley Johnson, Director San Mateo County Human Services Agency and Gary Beasley, Interim Director, Children and Family Services: November 15, 2009

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS GO HERE

Ventura County

County Profile:

The County of Ventura is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Ventura has a diverse economic base from tourism to technology. Early Spanish settlers described the area as the "land of everlasting summers" and named the region "San Buenaventura", which means "good fortune".

The population for Ventura County is approximately 797,740 residents of which 217,670 are children 18 years and younger. The breakdown of the county racial demographics are as follows: 87.3 percent Caucasian, 38 percent Latino/Hispanic, 6.6 percent Asian, 2.2 percent Black, 0.3 percent Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, 1.3 percent Native American Indians, and 2.3 percent report two or more races. The county child protection agency received 9,747 child abuse referrals of which 796 were substantiated cases. There are 603 children in placement.³

Activities:

³ Information provided by the Census Bureau and the Center for Social Research, University of California at Berkeley Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Glasser, T., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Lou, C.

- Ventura County is a newly formed Citizen Review Panel and has used these initial months to build the infrastructure of the panel including orientation procedures and by-law development.
- Ventura County meets monthly and has developed and refined a work plan.
- There are three work groups that are beginning review activities to meet their goals. They are currently reviewing the effectiveness of placement systems for clients placed in group homes, foster homes or Residential Treatment Centers regarding data management, outcome measures and effective programming that meet client's needs.
- Ventura County Citizen Review Panel will provide recommendations in the next annual report.

State CRP

Meetings:

In calendar year 2009, the CCRP met four times: January 14, June 30, September 3, and November 12.

Activities:

- The CCRP looked at the way that counties develop their case plans for reunification. The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, Family Team Decision Making Staff shared how they were involved in case plan development. Mr. Ken Borelli, a leader in child welfare services and social work practice discussed with the panel the role of the service plan, current service plan issues in regard to Team Decision Making, how parents can be better supported in implementing their service plans and the importance and influence of common practice vocabulary.
- The CCRP created and implemented a set of by-laws for the infrastructure of the panel.

Recommendation:

The California Citizen's Review Panel recommends that Division 31 Regulations be amended to read:

"205.1(b)(1) Specifically how the social worker engaged both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child, in order to solicit meaningful input from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child about the apparent problems, and possible causes of those problems, which require intervention.

205.1(b)(2) The perceptions of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child of: i) the apparent problems, and possible causes of those problems, which require intervention, and ii) what could aid in problem resolution."

Submitted to CDSS/OCAP: May 28, 2010
Submitted to Lee Ann Kelly, Acting Chief, Office of Child Abuse Prevention,
California Department of Social Services, May 28, 2010

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS GO HERE

California Citizen Review Panel Reporting Requirements

Citizen Review Panel Quarterly Reports:

All completed reports shall be submitted to OCAP prior to or on the assigned date **via** the CRP consultant. The CRP consultant will review the reports and submit to OCAP.

Quarter	Date of Submission to Consultant (optional)	Date of Submission to OCAP
January 1-March 31	April 20	April 30th
April 1-June 30	July 16	July 31st
July 1- September 30	October 15	October 31
October 1-December 31	January 15	January 31 st

Citizen Review Panel Annual Report

All completed reports shall be submitted to OCAP prior to or on the assigned date **via** the CRP consultant. The CRP consultant will review the reports and submit to OCAP.

Annual Report Time Periods covered	Date of Submission to Consultant	Date of Submission to OCAP
<u>July 1-Sept 30</u> Broken down into the following: <u>July 1-June 30</u> CRP Activity Report with Recommendations <u>July 1-Sept 30</u> Projected CRP activities	October 25-30	November 15th

Citizen Review Panel Recommendation Response timeframe:

- ❖ Once an annual report has been submitted to OCAP both the local counties and State CRP has 6 months within which to respond to any or all recommendations.

Budget Reporting:

Quarterly reports include a line item budget report that shows expenditures for the quarter reporting period.

Annual reports will include a line item budget report for the year's expenditures.

CRP Work plans: Will be updated yearly and due with the annual report. Any modifications made to the work plan during the course of the year will be submitted in writing to the CRP Consultant.

Citizen Review Panel
Annual & Recommendations Report
(2008/2009 Program Year)

County: Calaveras

Contact Person for this Report: Robin Davis

Date Submitted to OCAP: 11/11/09

Date Submitted to at the local County Agency: 11/11/09

Person Submitted to at the local County Agency: Mikey Habbestad

Please report on the Citizen Review Panel's activities per the items below and submit your response to CDSS, Office of Child Abuse Prevention via the Strategies Consultant no later than November 15, 2009.

1. County Profile (OCAP will provide current data from current annual report)

General Demographics

Ethnic make-up of county

Household income

2. Panel Activities

A. Panel structure and development

I. Membership (Work plan Goal #1)

Have there been any changes in membership or panel composition during the reporting period? The CRP maintained consistent membership throughout the year.

Membership continues to be made up of the Prevent Child Abuse Council with two additions (representing Probation and a community member). Members represent

Child Welfare, Public Health, and Behavioral Health – Substance Abuse, Early Education, Public Schools, and foster parents. The roster is attached.

Please discuss any activities the panel has engaged in specific to the recruitment of panel members to reflect community demographics and support creating or maintaining a diverse panel.

In the last month, members discussed and will follow up on recruitment of specific community individuals with an interest in the CRP activities. These include foster parents, high school Peer Mentor Program personnel, the local college, and the District Attorney's office. This month, we will present outcomes to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and will issue a new recruitment press release.

II. Panel Training (**Work plan goal #2**)

Please elaborate on the on-going orientation trainings of new CRP members. In addition, please describe any training activities the CRP has engaged in this past year as a means of on-going panel development.

All members have signed a statement of confidentiality regarding the privacy of information obtained. Each member received a binder with the reference material for California CRPs and Guidelines & Protocols. Members understand the Scope of Work defines the goals to be achieved for the year, and review it for clarification.

Mikey Habbestad, CWHSA Services Program Manager, provides monthly feedback from the Children's Services unit including county statistics regarding maltreatment recurrence, reunification, adoption, and permanency. This has provided the panel with a greater understanding of local changes in child welfare and areas requiring the most improvement.

III. Panel self evaluation activities – (**Work plan Goal #6**)

Has the panel undertaken any activities to help it assess its own performance during the reporting period? If so briefly describe these activities and the findings. If not, please describe when and how the panel will assess its performance.

The panel assessed its performance at the end of 2008 with individual self-evaluations. We will conduct another assessment as this next year's objectives are further identified and provide results in a Quarterly report.

3. CRP objectives (**Work plan Goals #3 & 5**)

For **each objective identified** in your work plan please report on the following:

- ♦Any demographics related to the CRP objective(s)
- ♦Description of the review activities and any technical assistance provided (example = case review, focus group, data review, State (Strategies) CRP consultant) to support your review work.

- ♦ Findings based on review activities
- ♦ Formal Recommendations based on findings (for County and State)
- ♦ Follow-up on the prior years annual report recommendations, including any County and State responses to the recommendations
- ♦ Discuss how the CRP recommendations will be disseminated to county, state officials as well as the public and how the CRP will handle any comments made.
- ♦ Future Directions – Briefly discuss the activities that the panel expects to undertake during the 2009/2010 program year- with an emphasis on July-Sept 2009 activities. (Please attach an updated work plan for next year)

Results from Recommendations

The primary goal of the CRP has been to research and address the recurrence and re-entry of children into the Foster Care System. Formal recommendations and responses have been submitted in the last two years. Calaveras County's rate was reduced from 18% to 12%, although the National standard is 9.9% or less.

The CRP assessed the effectiveness of new policies and procedures of the CWHSA and consumer agencies regarding re-entry into foster care. These included:

- Adapting intake and the Parent Education program
- Considering ways to offer in-home parent support
- More Parent involvement in developing case plans, especially tied to reunification services.
- Training for Social Workers
- Coordinate the efforts of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Mental Health to reduce the rate of foster care re-entry in Calaveras County.

This was presented to the Board of Supervisors by the CWHSA regarding Foster Care Re-entry:

"Although our most recent statistic in this area is slightly below the national standard/goal, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work on some of the recommendations that were made during our PQCR, and by the CRP. Further, we anticipate that our newly developed Family Preservation program, as well as implementing Wraparound Services, re-implementing FGDMITDM, and our Behavioral Health Services' newly developed perinatal drug treatment program, the number of children re-entering foster care will continue to decline."

The CRP followed up by beginning an assessment of one of the panel's recommendations to utilize the Perinatal Treatment Program. The CRP conducted focus group meetings with members of Behavioral Health staff and then with women in the program to assess needs and reasons for failure to reunify. They reported their most

challenging issues and this raised more questions about after-care for women in the program and a possible reunification support team.

The following recommendations were made:

The Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency (CWHSA) can designate responsibility to provide ongoing leadership to:

1. Assemble a short-term work group (a Reunification Support team) to decide how to best support mothers in the Perinatal Substance Abuse Treatment Program at reunification. This was cited as the most critical time for relapse and when the most support is needed.

2. Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Multidisciplinary Team Meetings. A member of the CRP, Robin Davis, attends these weekly meetings and has seen the value in bringing together a diverse group of agency representatives to make recommendations on services for children and families.

3. Seek opportunities for collaboration with local agencies that provide parent education, family support, in-home parent education and services related to child welfare.

4. Utilize existing or new mechanisms to provide opportunities for the client or parent voice to be heard when policies or strategies are developed and implemented.

Future Directions

In this last quarter, the panel discussed a variety of possibilities for objectives of the new grant. It was decided to evaluate and address the needs of the Independent Living Program (ILP). The ILP provides training, services and programs to assist current and former foster youth achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after leaving the foster care system. Youth are eligible for ILP services up to the day before their 21st birthday provided certain criteria are met. Some of the services provided through ILP include: daily living skills, money management, decision making, building self-esteem, financial assistance with college or vocational schools, educational resources, transitional housing, and employment.

Youth transitioning out of foster care face many challenges from a lack of a supportive person in their lives; reproductive health, parenting and pre-parenting skills; college readiness, toxic stress of domestic violence and abuse; and housing after they leave foster care. An initial meeting was held with the ILP Coordinator to identify some of the larger concerns.

4. Public in-put (Work plan Goal # 4)

Briefly describe any public input that the panel obtained during the reporting period and how this input was taken into consideration when making your final recommendations for this annual report.

If you will be obtaining public input after this annual reports recommendations are developed and published briefly describe your public input process and outline the time frames for this process.

The Panel's Final Report was reviewed by Calaveras Works and Human Services Agency (CWHSA). They responded and updates of findings were reported to the Board of Supervisors in April.

Calaveras County Citizen Review Panel Members 2008-09
(also members of the Prevent Child Abuse Council Calaveras)

Representative of Calaveras County Public Health Department: Robin Bunch, PHN Chair Calaveras County Public Health Department
Representative of Prevention & Treatment: Tina Marler, Vice Chair Bikers Against Child Abuse – Mother Lode (BACA)
Representative of Public & Private Schools Kathryn Eustis, Council Member Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program
Representative of Community/Civic Organizations Jennifer Goerlitz, Council Member UC Extension, 4-H
Representative of Calaveras Works-Human Services Agency Children's Svcs Mikey Habbestad, Council Member
Representative of Community/Civic Organizations Lisa Steffes, Council Member
Representative of Community/Civic Organizations Tracy Young, Council Member
Representative of Community/Civic Organizations Tammie Lee-Smith, Alternate
Robin Davis, PCACC/Children's Services Coordinator

**Citizen Review Panel
Annual & Recommendations Report
(2008/2009 Program Year)**

County: San Mateo

Name: Patricia Brown, CRP Facilitator

Date Submitted to OCAP: October 30, 2009

Date & Person Submitted to at the local County Agency:
Beverly Beasley Johnson, Director, San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA)
And Gary Beasley, Interim Director, Children and Family Services (CFS)
Date: November 15, 2009

Please report on the Citizen Review Panel's activities per the items below and submit your response to CDSS, Office of Child Abuse Prevention no later than November 15, 2009. See page two for information regarding submission.

1. **County Profile** (OCAP will provide current data from current annual report)
General Demographics and check with AB 636 data on DSS external web site for consistency.
Ethnic make-up of county
Household income

2. Panel Activities

A. Panel structure and development

I. Membership (Work plan Goal #1)

Have there been any changes in membership or panel composition during the reporting period?

The following table reflects the membership changes for the past year. The goal of recruiting a member from the Probation Department was achieved.

Membership as of 7/08	Affiliation	Membership as of 10/09	Affiliation
Jan Baumel	Retired educator	Jan Baumel	Licensed Education Psychologist, Retired Educator
David Cherniss	SM County Superior	David	SM County Court –

	Court	Cherniss	Juvenile Mediation Program
		Eddie Estrada	Manager, Differential Response, Youth and Family Enrichment Services
Ben Loewy	Administrator, SM County Office of Education	Ben Loewy	Administrator, SM County Office of Education
Katharine McClure	Retired educator		
Bonnie Miller	Public Defender's Panel	Bonnie Miller	Public Defender's Panel
Bernie Plotnikoff	Retired Child Abuse Prevention Professional	Bernie Plotnikoff	Retired Child Abuse Prevention Professional
Caitie O'Shea	Retired Special Education Administrator	Caitie O'Shea	Retired Special Education Administrator
Jamila Pounds	Edgewood Kinship Center	Jamila Pounds	Edgewood Kinship Center
		John Ragosta	Manager, Court Appointed Special Advocates
Ginny Stewart	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Ginny Stewart	Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Linda Symons	San Mateo County Juvenile Probation	Linda Symons	San Mateo County Juvenile Probation
Gary Beasley	CFS Liaison	Gary Beasley	CFS Liaison
Total Members: 10		Total Members: 11	

Jamila Pounds served as Chair for the SMCRP during this period.

Patricia Brown continues to serve as facilitator for the SMCRP.

Please discuss any activities the panel has engaged in specific to the recruitment of panel members to reflect community demographics and support creating or maintaining a diverse panel.

SMCRP has taken the following outreach steps during the past year:

- *Website development: working with a web site developer, CRP planned and implemented an interactive web site (www.smcrp.org) during the past year. It is*

designed to be the cornerstone of CRP's outreach efforts providing information about the mission and goals of the group, products of past work, an opportunity for members of the public to contact CRP with thoughts and input and a restricted access section for CRP members.

- Brochure and logo: CRP also developed and printed an informational brochure to use in outreach efforts. The brochure corresponds with the web site, utilizing the logo that exists on the web. A distribution plan is being developed and the brochure will be translated into Spanish in the next quarter.
- Outreach plan

San Mateo CRP Outreach Plan 2008-09

Outreach Idea	Who	When
1. Place an article in the Community Information Program (CIP) newsletter	Pat was asked by Bernie to prepare this article. A draft was circulated to CRP for review	Completed. Article will be useful for placement in newsletters
2. Develop two-way links from the CRP website to related websites	<p>The following issues need to be addressed as links are established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relationship between CRP and the mission of the group; are the missions compatible? • how we communicate to request a group post CRP's link; where the link will be located on the site (under other resources?) <p>Possible links and agency contact information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KidsCal.org ○ Parents Helping Parent ○ Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT) ○ Family Service Agency ○ Child Care Coordinating Council (4 C's) ○ Edgewood Center 	This goal was not fully implemented because of concerns that links with non-governmental providers might be perceived as endorsements of their services.
3. Add CRP information	David will follow up about	Done

to the CIP website	steps that need to be taken	
4. Place CRP brochures in areas where members of the public have access (libraries, schools, adult education, Youth and Family Enrichment Services Hotline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer Center ○ Board of Supervisor's chambers ○ HSA lobby ○ San Mateo County Citizen's Academy ○ Legal Aid ○ Core Service Agencies ○ Probation Dept. Lobby 	Ongoing
5. Use member connections to place articles about CRP in appropriate newsletters.	Explore possible newsletter placements -	Pending

Outreach activities completed

- Presentation to CCAT
- Bernie and Ben attend CCAT meetings. There is a meeting following the CRP meeting on Dec. 15. They will ask CCAT for time on a future agenda to present CRP's annual report and recommendations.
- Brochures have been distributed.
- Website has been maintained
- Article about CRP was published in the Community Information Program e-newsletter and CRP is included on the CIP website.

II. Panel Training (Work plan goal #2)

Please elaborate on the on-going orientation trainings of new CRP members. In addition, please describe any training activities the CRP has engaged in this past year as a means of on-going panel development.

This year, SMCRP developed an orientation manual for new members and made it available to all Panel members. In addition, an orientation process was adopted. It calls for new members to meet one on one with the Panel Chair(s) for an orientation session. Members new to the Panel this year have all completed the first orientation session and commented in the meetings that they found it very helpful.

During each meeting, SMCRP reviews information provided by CFS or other sources to assist with monitoring recommendation areas.

III. Panel self-evaluation activities – (Goal #3)

Has the panel undertaken any activities to help it assess its own performance during the reporting period? If so briefly describe these activities and the findings. If not, please describe when and how the panel will assess its performance.

For the third consecutive year, the Panel completed a self-evaluation process, using a scaled rating and written comments. This process was completed in September 2009 and the results are included below.

San Mateo County Citizen Review Panel
Annual Panel Self-Evaluation
Tally Sheet
September 2009

The San Mateo Citizen Review Panel engages in a self-evaluation annually. To facilitate the process for FY 2008-09, this form has been developed.

8 responses tallied

Scale = 1 (disagree) to 5 (agree)

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. CRP members take their role seriously and conscientiously prepare for each meeting. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $33.5/8 = 4.2$ | |
| 2. CRP members place a high priority on regular meeting attendance. | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $32.5/8 = 4.1$ |
| 3. CRP is working hard to address priority issues that relate to the safety and welfare of children involved with the child welfare system in San Mateo County. | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $37.5/8 = 4.7$ |
| 4. CRP members feel informed enough to participate in the discussion of agenda items. | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $38/8 = 4.8$ |
| 5. CRP receives the technical assistance support it needs to do its job well. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $31/8 = 3.9$ | |
| 6. CRP receives the information it needs from the Human Services Agency in an understandable format. | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $27.5/8 = 3.4$ |
| 7. CRP receives the facilitation support it needs to do its work in an efficient and inclusive manner. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Average = $38/8 = 4.8$ | |
| 8. CRP members feel satisfaction with the | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |

contribution they are making to improving the safety and well-being of children in this community

Average = $24/8 = 3.0$

Suggestions for improving the performance of CRP:

- a) I am doing the best I can to attend. I am really not sure of the impact to safety of children or HSA. Without looking at CPS reports to the hotline and outcome or case files, how do we know? I think there should be some random sampling done and some form of liaison with the schools and churches in the community and review of probation reports with extensive CPS histories of cases with no action, refer out.
- b) The new members bring a welcome energy and knowledge to the panel. I look forward to receiving timely information from HSA and hearing directly from department heads.
- c) I feel we are doing the best with the information and assistance provided, however don't always feel the information we need is available or in a format allowing the most knowledgeable analysis for discussion or recommendations – I'd like to have some discussion and direction in creating or acquiring better information.
- d) More timely and appropriate response from CFS; More general group participation from members; How to expect members who are financially connected to CFS and HSA to give an unbiased opinion? Need to know what and how the state is using this information – or is it? This affects performance. What is meant by technical assistance? If part of it is from CFS, then we are not receiving as much as we should. If it refers to the facilitator, then she is doing a good job.
- e) As always, facilitation for this group is efficient and effective. In comparison to last year, it feels like we had much more productive meetings. We seemed to have moved in some directions in regards to our research and a fuller understanding of CWS. Our CWS liaison has been helpful in bringing different personnel to discuss areas of the CRP recommendations and monitoring plan. However, the flow of information was not consistent, which made it challenging to keep informed discussions going throughout the year.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the compiled evaluation information on October 19 at its regular meeting. The Panel members noted that while the rating for member satisfaction with service on the CRP (Question #8) had improved from last year, it was still received the lowest score. There was agreement to take time for more discussion of this issue at a future meeting and to try to identify what members feel would make their service more satisfying.

3. CRP objectives (Goal #4)

For each objective identified in your work plan please report on the following:

- **Any demographics related to the CRP objective(s)**
The demographics that relate to these recommendations reflect the demographics of the clients served by Child Welfare Services in San Mateo County.
- **Description of the review activities and any technical assistance provided (example = case review, focus group, data review, State (Strategies) CRP consultant) to support your review work.**
- **Findings based on review activities**

At the September CRP meeting, the Panel reviewed the relevant information it received during the past year and agreed to “findings” for each recommendation.

Recommendation in 2007-08 Annual Report	Findings (in Bold)
<p>Team Decision Making 1. <i>Children and Family Services (CFS) should explore the thoughtful use of collaborative decision-making models (Team Decision Making, Family/ Student Study Teams, Family Group Conferencing, Family Mediation, etc.) to engage families and caregivers in productive partnerships to benefit children. CFS should look for opportunities to maximize the use of these models, increase referrals between models and promote quality and consistency in the implementation of these models.</i></p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u> Reports to CRP by TDM Manager</p>	<p>Findings: Children and Family Services (CFS) has made progress in expanding the use of Team Decision Making Meetings (TDMs) for placement planning. CFS has not developed and used a tool to evaluate the TDM process. Based on observation and anecdotal information, CRP believes Improvement is needed to ensure that the process used in TDMs allows full participation by the family (and youth when appropriate) in the development of the plan. CFS has not explored the use of other models such as family group conferencing and family mediation to assist families to address issues and resolve problems.</p> <p><u>Excerpts from CRP notes:</u> To monitor implementation of TDMs, CRP members participated in TDMs, received reports from Dorothy Torres, Supervisor of TDM as well as Gary Beasley, interim Director of CFS.</p> <p>3/16/09 - Dorothy Torres In the past 6 months, there has been an average of 28 TDMs/ month and an average of 4-6 transitional conferences each month (dealing with issues such as housing, education, employment, documents,</p>

connections for support). CFS aims to provide two planning sessions for youth as they are nearing exit from the system – one session occurs when they are 17 and the second 90 days before emancipation

- a. The TDM team is facilitating non-placement meetings as well (ex. closing plan)
- b. TDM continues to use a strength-based approach – the use of cultural “brokers” is being considered to help CFS staff understand the families cultural values and help the families understand the CFS “culture”
- c. Very few children entering the system are receiving TDMs because of the difficulty of scheduling and location. Gary noted the need for available community locations around the county.
- d. There is a plan to use TDMs to address disproportionality with African American males – a model that does not require parent participation – TDMs would occur on entry
- e. TDM staff has received training on handling grief and loss

5/18/09 – Marissa Saludes, presented the Q3 recommendations in Q3 AB 636 report which echoed CRP recommendations included: “Evaluate the Team Decision Making (TDM) Program and its effectiveness in stabilizing placements. Analyze practices such as identifying whether emergency TDMs are fully utilized as a strategy to preserve placements. TDM can also potentially affect other AB636 measures such as reunification, re-entry, and permanency. Expanding the analysis to include these other qualitative outcomes and presenting them to Social Workers will help in getting staff buy-in that will lead to consistent practice of conducting TDM at every change of placement.”

7/20/09 – “Dorothy told CRP that she was working with Quality Assurance and the Policy Unit to design an outcome evaluation for TDMs that will address whether the product of the TDM, the action plan, has been (or is being) implemented two months after the meeting. The approach will be to contact social workers to see if the action plan is moving ahead

	<p>and ask them whether the process was helpful in managing the case.</p> <p>CRP continued to request information about how the TDM process is being evaluated. At the 8/17/09 meeting CRP received a draft process evaluation form to review – CFS also wants to assess the longer-term impact of TDMs– are they really ensuring better placements?</p> <p>CRP members had many questions for Dorothy, most relating to concerns about the preparation of all TDM participants and the effectiveness of the TDM process in enabling family members to contribute to the placement plan that is being developed. CRP raised the issue of lack of consistency in the way meetings were facilitated and Dorothy agreed that this was a problem. While facilitators receive consistent training in the basics of the TDM model, they do not get sufficient coaching and feedback to ensure its consistent implementation. CRP members felt that if family members are not full participants in developing the placement plan, they are not as likely to follow through on its implementation. CRP emphasized its interest in “how” the plan get developed and concern that many times the “professionals” come into the meeting with a plan they want to “sell” to the family. CRP emphasized the TDM should be the family’s meeting, not a CFS meeting. There were specific questions about how family members are prepared to participate and the need for a reiteration of the instructions as the TDM meeting is getting started.</p> <p>CRP urged Dorothy (1) to begin using a simple written feedback form for TDM participants (similar to the form being used by Orange County) and (2) ask facilitators to include instructions for participants in their opening remarks.</p>
<p>Re-Entry</p> <p>2. CFS should fully implement its System Improvement Plan (SIP) goal of using the case review process as a tool</p>	<p>Findings:</p> <p>CFS has implemented the case review process through quarterly sessions involving social workers. One area of review is re-entry; Two CRP members have participated in these reviews.</p> <p>The quality of the AB 636 reports has improved</p>

for improving practices in re-entry cases. CRP will participate in this case review approach when possible and may, in addition, utilize an independent case review process for re-entry cases.

Monitoring

- Twice yearly report to CRP from PQR case review committee
- Quarterly update on re-entry data from AB 636 report

greatly in the past year and the more understandable format provides timely and relevant information.

Excerpts from CRP notes:

11/08 – AB 636 report – “CFS met one of the four reunification standards –the re-entry rate for this quarter was the lowest since April 2003-March 2004. It improved by 16.4 percent from the last quarter.”

2/23/09 – The AB 636 Q2 2008 report was a combination of the AB 636 comparison of San Mateo’s performance with Federal standard and a 10 year review of CFC’s performance on all standard areas. SMC in Q2 2008 met the two safety standards, failed to meet all four reunification standards, met three of the five adoption standards, met one of three long term outcomes and none of the placement stability outcomes.

3/16/09 – Report on the Program Quality Case Review process used by the County as part of its System Improvement Plan. A draft summary of the recommendations of the team that recently visited San Mateo County was distributed to CRP and Panel members were asked to review the information and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the recommendations that were submitted by the PQCR team. The PQCR team was impressed with the rich array of services available in San Mateo County and found that San Mateo County youth were familiar with their rights and with the resources available to them. This comment led to the discussion of the need for providers to be familiar with the rights of young people and with the resources available to them.

4/20/09 – “Ginny reported on her participation in the recent case review process conducted by CFS to monitor re-entry cases. She felt the process was effective and professional and that the social workers were very supportive of her involvement. Each worker sat at a computer with access to case files and had hard copy files.

	<p>They were each reviewing 5 or 6 cases in which they had not been involved. 25 cases are being reviewed during each review period. Cases are pulled from all stages of involvement with the system. As the review proceeds, notes are posted on each case file. After the review process, the manager who oversees PQR reviews the comments and when appropriate speaks with supervisors and workers to give feedback. This process is part of the continuous quality improvement efforts associated with accreditation.</p> <p>CRP was given the complete report on the Peer Quality Case Review conducted for Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation Services in February 2009.</p> <p>The Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR) is one of three activities mandated by the California-Children and Family Services Review (C-CFSR, 2004) that helps counties assess the effectiveness of child welfare practices across child safety, permanency and stability as well as family connections and well-being. San Mateo County Children and Family Services (CFS) and Probation's Juvenile Division partnered to study the rate of re-entry into the foster care system within 12 months of reunification. Children and Family Services focused on re-entry into foster care as their focus area for their initial PQCR in 2006. Although statistics have improved, the Human Services Agency continues to strive toward improvement in this area and in meeting the national standard. Findings may be used to inform improvement recommendations for child welfare practice, service capacity and training. Probation also focused on re-entry into foster care as their focus area for their initial PQCR in 2006.</p>
<p>Parenting Education</p> <p>3a. CFS should continue to implement its evidence-based parent</p>	<p>Findings 3a: CFS has continued to implement its evidence-based parent education program and has added curriculum relating to adolescents. CFS makes</p>

education program (addressing barriers such as transportation whenever possible) and explore expansion of this program to include parents of younger children and parents of teenagers.

Monitoring

CRP review report of program implementation at end of first year (Jan-Dec 08)

3b. CFS should continue to pursue collaboration with Juvenile Probation to promote consistency in parent education programs and maximize resources directed to parenting education.

Monitoring

CRP liaison and Probation representative update CRP twice during upcoming year: January and June 2009

transportation available to parents participating in the program. Materials for parents are available in English and Spanish. Not all parents participate in this program.

Excerpts from CRP notes:

1/26/09 – “Gary provided the Panel with an update on the implementation of the Parent Education Program, an evidence based curriculum developed by the Lutra Group and available in English and Spanish versions. He reported that one reason this curriculum was selected as that it involved parents and their children in joint sessions where parenting skills could be applied and coaching provided. Case aides from Children and Family Services attend the sessions and work directly with the families. They are able then to communicate with social workers about how to best support families.

Last year, there was no component addressing parent-teen interactions, but this new focus has been added this year, as of January. 13 families with teens, some with teens as parents themselves, are participating.

Findings 3b:

Through contacts made at SMCRP, CFS and Juvenile Probation have collaborated in providing training to both Probation and Child Welfare Families and to train staff members to teach the parent education program – four probation staff members have been trained, but implementation may be hampered by severe fiscal constraints.

Excerpts from CRP notes:

1/26/09 Gary reported that a number of families already involved with probation are in the parent education program. Their presence has required another look at curriculum, since part of the instruction relates to teaching parents how to navigate the “system” they are in. Gary noted that there is probably capacity to accept direct referrals from other sources. He will look into this idea and give CRP an update in February.

	<p>One other potential positive outcome of this parent education program is the development of a <i>parent as partner/advocate</i> program, since parents who successfully complete the program and exit the system could be very helpful as parenting instructors and/or participants in TDM and other settings.</p>
<p>Accessible information materials</p> <p>4a. CFS should continue efforts to ensure that all materials used to educate families, caregivers and members of the public about the child welfare system are understandable and accessible and implement a consistent process to ensure distribution of these materials to all parents involved with CFS.</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u> CRP review all current materials used to explain child welfare system to those outside of the system – February 2009 and provide feedback to CFS</p> <p>4b. CFS should seek feedback from those who use the materials to ensure their effectiveness.</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u> Report from CFS manager about efforts to obtain feedback from users of materials. April 2009</p>	<p>Findings 4a: CRP remains concerned that materials used to educate family members about the child welfare system are not fully understandable. CRP recognizes CFS efforts to provide workers with “cheat sheets” to help them explain the information to families</p> <p><u>Excerpts from CRP notes:</u> 8/17/09: Panel members continued to express concern about the need to ensure that written materials used to educate family members and youth are understandable for those recipients. There was support for CFS to begin using the updated education material available on the State Court website.</p> <p>Findings 4b: During the Council on Accreditation review, parents and caregivers were asked by CFS to provide feedback on materials, but CRP did not review this feedback. This process was associated with accreditation and it has not been used consistently and it is not clear whether the feedback given during the COA process was used.</p>

<p>4c. CFS should provide these materials to community partners so that they can assist parents to understand the child welfare system.</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u> Report from CFS manager about efforts to distribute materials to community partners and engage their help in explaining the child welfare system to parents, guardians, others. April 2009</p>	<p>Findings 4c: While materials are made available to community partners, it is not clear whether partners are asked to assist with explaining the CWS to family members.</p>
<p>Differential Response</p> <p>5. CFS should examine the impact of recent changes in the approach to differential response to determine if levels of family engagement have increased, and if participation in Path I has decreased the number of repeat referrals and entry into the child welfare system.</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u> Utilize data collected by CFS to monitor effectiveness of DR – receive and review regular implementation reports twice during 2009.</p>	<p>Findings: While CFS has received some information about the impact of Differential Response, indicated in the County Response to CRP recommendations, CRP has not seen the data used by CFS to monitor DR implementation. Current fiscal constraints may threaten the continuation of this program.</p>

During this reporting period, SMCRP requested and received extensive technical assistance in the form of information about how the effectiveness of team decision making is assessed in other communities implementing the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Model. This information was very helpful both to CRP and to San Mateo County Children and Family Services.

Formal Recommendations (for County and State)

Recommendations for 2009-10 [for the SMCRP 2008-09 Annual Report]
<p>1. Children and Family Services should develop a Team Decision Making (TDM) Advisory Committee to assess whether the current model is working as intended, to review and analyze evaluation data for both the "process" and the "outcomes" of TDM meetings and to make recommendations for improvements based on that data.</p> <p><u>Monitoring:</u> CRP will receive quarterly reports from the TDM Advisory Committee</p>
<p>2. Children and Family Services should support families in the child welfare system by providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) information and education about how the system works,(b) peer support from other parents who have experience with the system(c) relevant resources to enable families to be full and successful participants in the reunification process. <p><u>Monitoring:</u> Review of information and education materials and processes, updates on development of a "parent as partner" program, review of resources available to families, input from families re. their understanding of and ability to participate in the child welfare system</p>

Note: This year SMCRP decided to limit itself to two recommendations, because of the severe fiscal constraints facing Children and Family Services (and other parts of the Child Welfare System) and to enable more in-depth review and monitoring of these two important areas of interest.

Follow-up on the prior years annual report recommendations, including any County and State responses to the recommendations:

CRP received the following written response to its recommendations in August 2009.

San Mateo County Human Services Agency
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES (CFS)
Response to
Citizens Review Panel (CRP)
2007-2008 Annual Report and
Recommendations for 2008-2009

County/State Child Welfare Agency	San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Children & Family Services
Name of Contact Person	Gary Beasley
Contact Person's Title	Interim Director, Children & Family Services

1. *CFS should explore the thoughtful use of collaborative decision-making models (Team Decision Making, Family/Student Study Teams, Family Group Conferencing, Family Mediation, etc.) to engage families and caregivers in productive partnerships to benefit children. CFS should look for opportunities to maximize the use of these models, increase referrals between models and promote quality and consistency in the implementation of these models.*

In the 2008-09 term, Children and Family Services expanded its use of Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings as part of its overall strategy to ensure families are engaged and participating in decisions involving youth in the child welfare system. Through the TDM process, a collaborative child support network consisting of HSA, Mental health, CBOs and family members is convened at each instance in which a child changes placement. The goal of these collaborative meetings is to allow families to select individuals with whom they feel comfortable to participate in discussions surrounding placements, who may then assist the parents in advocating for themselves. By encircling families in a network of support, TDM meetings empower families to take an active role in the design and implementation of an action plan, which leads to more cooperative participation and higher reunification rates.

CFS has taken steps toward working with County Counsel and the Private Defenders Office to educate them on the purpose and goals of TDMs, and to secure their support and participation, when necessary, in the process. It is expected this promising relationship will continue to grow in the coming year, as CFS and the legal team pursue cooperation in refining the TDM model.

In addition to engaging families in child welfare decisions and family plans, the TDM process has also been an important tool in CFS's commitment toward addressing disproportionate outcomes for children of color involved in the system. The TDM

meeting environment allows CFS to take a more thoughtful approach to considering cultural norms and how they affect families.

CFS continues to make progress towards ensuring that TDM meetings are a collaborative process, and that when appropriate, families are referred to other county and community resources that meet their needs. CFS has relationships with an expansive network of family engagement partners, allowing CFS to make referrals that reflect that dynamics of each family and their unique challenges. During the TDM meeting, families may be referred to providers for mental health services, intensive in-home services, differential response, mediation services, kinship support services, or to a regional Family Resource Center. Recommendations may be made during the TDM meeting that families participate in Family Self Sufficient Teams, or other types of Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings. Families may also be connected with community-based services such as the local YMCA or Boys & Girls Club. When appropriate, the Asian American Recovery Services is invited to TDM meetings, and for families involving children under the age of five, staff from the Pre-to-Three program are invited. The partners identified above are a representative, but not exhaustive, list of community resources families may be referred to.

In addition to serving as community resources that support families beyond the TDM meeting, many of these partners offer their buildings as locations in which TDM meetings can take place. The level of support offered to families by CFS and its partners during the TDM process contributes to the larger goals of reunification or other forms of placement stability.

2. CFS should fully implement its System Improvement Plan (SIP) goal of using the case review process as a tool for improving practices in re-entry cases. CRP will participate in this case review approach when possible and may, in addition, utilize an independent case review process for re-entry cases.

As part of the System Improvement Plan (SIP) CFS has been conducting quarterly Qualitative Internal Peer Case Record Reviews, wherein identified cases are reviewed using an evaluation tool developed in alignment with the Council on Accreditation (COA) standards. CRP members Ginny Stewart and Jamila Pounds have been participating in this quarterly review process. It is anticipated that one hundred case records will be reviewed during the fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 term, of which approximately 13 percent are re-entry cases.

The SIP evaluation tool ensures a systematic approach is applied to each case record review, and allows CFS to ensure best practice models of service delivery are being implemented. Through this process, CFS is able to identify and address any deficiencies that are discovered. Data from the quarterly case record reviews is analyzed for trends on positive outcomes and areas for improvement, and incorporated in larger agency-wide self evaluation processes. Results from the analyses are disseminated to program managers and supervisors, and made available for all CFS staff to review.

3a. CFS should continue to implement its evidence-based parent education program (addressing barriers such as transportation whenever possible) and explore expansion of this program to include parents of younger children and parents of teenagers.

CFS has a contract with Lutra Group, which provides training to social workers and childhood education instructors in the Strengthening Families Program (SFP) curriculum. The Parent Education program was expanded in fiscal year 2008-09 to include an SFP curriculum component on parents of children ages 3-5 years. CFS also entered into a contract with Melissa Dulla to co-facilitate the new curriculum, along with Cañada College. The SFP curriculum is an evidence-based parent education series, and has been well received by participating families.

In December, 2009, CFS purchased the SFP teen curriculum component, and offered one session during the 2008-09 term. The addition of this component allowed CFS to expand its collaboration with Juvenile Probation, as many of the parents and families participating in the teen courses have engagement with the Juvenile Probation Department. CFS will be increasing its capacity in the upcoming year to offer more sessions on parents of teenagers.

In addition to offering more sessions for parents of young children and teenagers, the Parent Education classes have been held in regional locations in community buildings throughout the county to make them more accessible for families. While transportation is not provided, the goal is that by offering the classes in regional locations, transportation will be less of an obstacle for parents. CFS views these classes as an important service that provides families with the tools to implement positive parenting techniques and learn life skills that benefit the family as a whole, and serve as a potential deterrent to negative engagement with the child welfare system.

In the upcoming year, CFS will be exploring the development of a 'Parent Partnership Program', using graduates from the Parent Education program who have demonstrated leadership qualities as parent mentors. The Parent Education forum will be a great opportunity for CFS to work with potential parent mentors, and leverage their success to engage even more parents in family support.

3b. CFS should continue to pursue collaboration with Juvenile Probation to promote consistency in parent education programs and maximize resources directed to parenting education.

CFS is pleased to have been collaborating with Juvenile Probation with respect to the Parent Education program. Juvenile Probation families were invited to participate in the parent education classes, and their referrals represented approximately 2/3 of the parents present for the SPF teen curriculum class.

As well as being represented among the participating families, Juvenile Probation has collaborated with CFS in a significant way by having one of its Probation Officer staff

attend the 'Train the Trainer' program, qualifying the Officer to now team with CFS in teaching future courses. This partnership will strengthen the relationship between CFS and Juvenile Probation in moving forward with the parent education classes, and will contribute to ensuring consistent messages are disseminated to families.

4a. CFS should continue efforts to ensure that all materials used to educate families, caregivers and members of the public about the child welfare system are understandable and accessible and implement a consistent process to ensure distribution of these materials to all parents involved with CFS.

As part of the COA accreditation process, CFS undertook a review of all materials provided to families to ensure the documentation was consistent with best practices. A "Your Rights Documentation" form was developed that is issued to every parent at the point of initial contact, which confirms all materials related to client rights were received, and that the parent's preferred language choice is captured. The materials provided to parents during the initial contact include (1) A Parent's Guide to Child Protective Services Investigation, (2) Publication 13 *Rights and Responsibilities Publication*, (3) Parent's Guide to Foster Care, (4) Letter Regarding Shelter Care / Receiving Home, (5) Judicial Court Information Sheet (JV050), (6) Dependency Court: How It Works (JV055), (7) Child's Right (if applicable).

Materials given to families are available online, and in seven languages: English, Samoan, Simple Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, Tongan, and Traditional Chinese.

4b. CFS should seek feedback from those who use the materials to ensure their effectiveness.

A parent review system, wherein a sampling of parents reviewed all documentation for content and ease of understanding, was conducted as part of the COA accreditation process. During this test review phase, parents were given the opportunity to comment on the forms and recommend changes. This feedback was incorporated into the final documentation that is now given to clients.

Materials developed by CFS have been shared with community and contracted partners, and a quality assurance review process, consistent with COA accreditation standards, is underway. This review process will ensure that feedback is solicited from staff, contracted and voluntary partners who interact with CFS clients. Furthermore, an internal survey on customer service is available to clients in each regional office.

4c. CFS should provide these materials to community partners so that they can assist parents to understand the child welfare system.

The forms and documentation given to parents regarding the child welfare system have been distributed and are available to community partners including the Family Resource Centers, contracted partners that are service providers to clients, and other county

entities that engage with CFS clients such as Prevention and Early Intervention, Juvenile Probation and Mental Health.

While the clarification of the forms that came out of the COA accreditation process has resulted in a more simplified dissemination of information, CFS will examine opportunities for outreach to community providers to make sure a clear and consistent message is conveyed.

5. CFS should examine the impact of recent changes in the approach to differential response to determine if levels of family engagement have increased, and if participation in Path I has decreased the number of repeat referrals and entry into the child welfare system.

Engagement rates for the Differential Response program have been between 75 and 80 percent, with Path I engagement comprising approximately 10 percent of all referrals. Currently the data suggests no correlation between Path I referrals and entry into the child welfare system, as families engaged through Path I are typically not likely candidates to have entered the system at the point of referral.

For Path II referrals, however, CFS is observing a trend towards less entry into the child welfare system for families engaged at this referral level. This decrease in referrals is particularly notable among families with children in the 0-5 age group population. The larger impact of this has been a decreasing caseload for CFS, suggesting the funds used to support differential response have resulted in an overall cost savings to the County. Secondly, diverting potentially at-risk families to community resources allows them to be proactively engaged in the early intervention supports required for positive family functioning, rather than having CFS respond once the family is experiencing dysfunction and crisis. In this capacity, differential response serves as a preventative measure against families entering the child welfare system. Further empirical analysis of the data surrounding differential response and entry cases is necessary to understand more fully how the two statistically correlate, but preliminary evidence suggests the program measurably benefits both families and CFS.

4. Public in-put (Work plan Goal # 4)

Briefly describe any public input that the panel obtained during the reporting period and how this input was taken into consideration when making your final recommendations for this annual report.

The only public input received by SMCRP during the past year related to concerns that were outside the scope of CRP. However, the Panel reviewed the concerns presented and took steps to ensure that they were referred to the appropriate oversight group.

If you will be obtaining public input after these annual reports and recommendations are developed and published, briefly describe your public input process and outline the time frames for this process.

Members of the public can provide input to SMCRP through the following routes:

- *Written communication*
- *Contact with any member of the Panel or the facilitator*
- *Through the CRP website*

Each year, SMCRP makes a formal presentation of its Annual Report and Recommendations to the Children's Collaborative Action Team, a group of government and community based organizations that meets regularly to coordinate and integrate services for children and families. This presentation is generally done in February or March, based on the CCAT agenda. At this time, CCAT members are asked for questions and feedback. Once input is received, it is reviewed by the Panel Chair (co-chairs) and placed on the next regular CRP agenda if appropriate.

Roster
San Mateo County Citizen Review Panel
November 2009

Name	Affiliation
Baumel, Jan	Licensed Educational Psychologist and Retired Special Educator
Cherniss, David	San Mateo County Courts - Juvenile Mediation Program
Estrada, Eddie	Manager, Differential Response Program, Youth and Family Enrichment Services
Loewy, Ben	Administrator, SM County Office of Education
Miller, Bonnie	Public Defenders Office
O'Shea, Kathleen (Caitie)	Special Education Administrator
Plotnikoff, Bernie	Community member, Retired Child Abuse Prevention Professional
Pounds, Jamila, Chair	Edgewood Center
Ragosta, John	Manager, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Stewart, Ginny, Vice Chair	Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Symons, Linda	Manager, Juvenile Probation Services San Mateo County Probation



California Citizen's Review Panel Meetings 2009

July 30, 2008

August 11, 2008

January 15, 2009

March 30, 2009

Introduction

The State of California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is mandated to have three Citizen Review Panels in order to draw down CAPTA funding from the Federal Government. Two of the Citizen Review Panels - San Mateo County and Calaveras County review and then make recommendations to their respective counties and the state. The California Citizen's Review Panel (CCRP) acts as the Citizen's Review Panel for the State of California Department of Social Services.

The California Citizen's Review Panel (CCRP) made the decision early in its creation to examine the California Child Welfare System sequentially. The panel began by evaluating the methodology used by California Counties to receive and respond to Child Abuse Hotline calls. The State Department of Social Services was in the process of implementing an assessment tool to better support child welfare workers in making an evaluation of Child Abuse hotline calls as well as providing child welfare workers with the best tools possible to help in making critical case assessments and decisions.

Although most California Counties had decided to use Standard Decision Making (SDM) a handful of counties decided that they didn't want to use SDM and set about creating another evaluative tool. They worked together to develop a new tool called the Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT). The CCRP found that the CAT was lacking and recommended that SDM should be used uniformly in all 58 counties.

Because California is a State run, County administered system it is difficult for the State Agency to mandate County practice to ensure some uniformity in the delivery of child welfare services. The CCRP found this to be a bit frustrating as any recommendations they might make could only turn into recommendations from the State Agency. There was much discussion over the sort of recommendations we could make that could be implemented by the Department.

For the past two years the CCRP has been looking at the way that Counties develop case plans for reunification. Our goal was to come up with recommendations that CDSS could implement through changing existing State Regulations. This was a two year project.

Our goals were two-fold:

- 1) Make recommendations to SDSS that they have control over and, if they are in agreement with the CCRP recommendations by making some regulation changes.
- 2) The CCRP's second goal was to develop and pass a set of by-laws for the Panel.

The panel was successful in completing both of these goals.

Case Plans and the California Child Welfare System

Initially the California Citizen's Review Panel discussed their perceptions and notions about current practice concerning Reunification Case Plans and the California Child Welfare System. Much discussion and debate followed and the following concerns were agreed upon:

- Case Plans look and sound difficult for families to navigate – is someone walking the family through the process?
- Are the services being mandated easily available?
- Some families are asked to partake of services that do not apply to the issues or concerns of the family.
- Prioritization - what is the most important part of the plan?
- Are the plans too generic and cookie cutter?
- What is the service array that is available?
- Who makes the Case Plan?
- What is the training of the child welfare worker who makes the plan?

- Who reviews the Case Plan?
- Has the child welfare worker's Supervisor met the family?
- Is the family involved in making the plans? Or are they told?
- Can we simplify plans?
- Are we setting families up for failure?
- How does the Family to Family initiative fit into the development of Case Plans?
- Is CWS/CMS driving the case plan or visa versa? Do the services build into the State's computer system limit case plan thinking?

CWS/CMS

Many CCRP members were concerned about the State's SAQUIS system CWS/CMS. It was felt by many that the computer program was limiting the thinking of child welfare workers. The Department is in the process of revamping the system and the CCRP felt strongly that the new program needed to allow child welfare workers more flexibility. The Panel devoted a good deal of time to the topic. The CCRP ultimately learned that the County Welfare Director's Association of California (CWDA) had already formed a workgroup to address specifically the Case Plans part of the new system. The Panel reviewed and felt comfortable with their recommendations.

Family to Family Initiative – Family Team Decision Making

The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services was kind enough to allow its Family Team Decision Making Staff share how they were involved in case plan development. The CCRP was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and competence of the Los Angeles County Staff as well as their program.

There were concerns expressed by Panel members concerning the parent's role in these meetings as well as how the use of the Team Decision Making Meetings seemed to vary county to county. For the most part when parents are invited to the meetings they have no one there to support them and the rest of the table is staffed by professionals. There was a general feeling that if a case plan was being generated the parent might feel overwhelmed and unable to grasp or fully understand what was happening. The Panel felt that the use of a Parent Partner as a support for might help the parent better navigate these types of meetings.

The Panel invited Ken Borelli a local, state and national leader in child welfare services and social work practice, and recently retired after 36 with the Department of Family and Children's Services of Santa Clara County. Mr. Borelli discussed the role of the service plan; current service plan issues in regards to Team Decision Making and

comprehension and how we can better support our parents implement their service plans. Ken also discussed with the panel the importance and influence of common practice vocabulary.

Mr. Borelli believes that Case Plans also called "Service Plans" should be interactive and not a legal document. Mr. Borelli asked the panel at what level and for whom is the case plan written. He discussed with the panel a way where we could bring the families and the courts together. He suggested a tool that would be used for the courts or a summary tool used for the families to better help bridge the gap.

The discussion turned to how it would be nice to see case plans from the perspective of the child. Mr. Borelli also stressed how important the first initial meeting is with the family to discuss the case plans. Ideas to focus on would be a comprehensible case plan with correct/plain language, parent involvement and at a 3rd or 4th grade level. The panel discussed looking at the Core training for Case Planning.

Generally, it after many interviews and presentations the CCRP felt that Case Plan Development needed to involve the parent on a level that they could understand as well as include the child if age appropriate. It was also felt that the array of services available to Parents should be expanded as money becomes available.

The panel had many recommendations which would be excellent ideas for Counties but had decided to provide the State with recommendations that the Department of Social Services could implement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The California Citizen's Review Panel recommends that Division 31 Regulations be amended to read:

"205.1(b)(1) Specifically how the social worker engaged both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child, in order to solicit meaningful input from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child about the apparent problems, and possible causes of those problems, which require intervention.

205.1(b)(2) The perceptions of the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child of: i) the apparent problems, and possible causes of those problems, which require intervention, and ii) what could aid in problem resolution."

California Citizen's Review Panel

2009 Membership Roster

Name	Affiliation
Mara Bernstein	Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of CA Administrative Office of the Courts
Mary Butler	Chief Probation Officer - California
Mike Carll	California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT) Parent Leader, Parents Anonymous of California
Kate Cleary Chairperson, CCRP	Executive Director, Consortium for Children
Kelly Cleary	CCRP Coordinator
Nanette Gledhill Membership Secretary, CCRP	Cal-ICWA Director of Operations
Corene Kendrick	Youth Law Center
Pamela Maxwell	California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT) Parent Leader, Parents Anonymous of California
John Neiman	Attorney (Santa Cruz Co.), Assistant Director (Santa Clara Co) Juvenile Defenders
James Michael Owens, JD Vice Chairperson, CCRP	Assistant County Counsel, Training & Litigation Division, LA County, California County Counsel Association

